The mission of Mount Markham Elementary School is to positively impact the lives of our students by building a solid and sustainable foundation for lifelong learning, and by addressing the needs of the whole child while inspiring them to reach their fullest potential.
Dear Parents:

On behalf of the Mount Markham Elementary School, I would like to welcome you to a new year. We look forward to working with you and your children. This handbook is intended to help you understand our goals, expectations and procedures.

Mount Markham Elementary School has a strong, highly qualified teaching staff who share a genuine concern for children. The staff works together to provide a warm, humane, nurturing environment for children to learn and grow. Our goal is to instill in each child a love of learning, a strong sense of self-worth, positive self-esteem and a sense of social responsibility.

Our focus is on providing a safe, pleasant, and caring workplace for children to achieve. Your support of our efforts and your involvement in your child’s education will help make the elementary years productive and memorable ones.

Sincerely,
Jennifer McDonald
Elementary Principal

DAILY SCHEDULE:

8:00-8:25  Buses Arrive
8:00-8:25  Breakfast Program
8:25  Instructional Day Begins
8:40-9:10  (Last day of the week) Good Morning Program (Pre-K-1)
2:30  Dismissal
2:40  Buses Leave
The District will safeguard the rights and responsibilities given to all students under state and federal law. It shall be the right of each student to:

1. To have a safe, healthy, and courteous school environment.
2. To take part in all district activities on an equal basis regardless of race, sex, religion, national origin or disability.
3. In all disciplinary matters, to present their version of the relevant events to school personnel authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty.
4. Access school rules and, when necessary, receive an explanation of those rules from school personnel.

It shall be the responsibility of each student to:

1. Contribute to an orderly, learning-centered environment, and to show respect for other persons and property.
2. Be familiar with and abide by all district policies, rules and regulations dealing with student conduct.
3. Arrive at school/class on time each day.
4. Work to the best of their ability in all academic and extracurricular pursuits and strive toward their highest level of achievement possible.
5. React to direction given by teachers, administrators and other school personnel in a respectful and positive manner.
6. Work to develop mechanisms to control anger.
7. Ask questions when they do not understand.
8. Seek help in solving problems that might lead to discipline.
10. Accept responsibility for their actions.
11. Conduct themselves as representatives of the district at all school functions and hold themselves to the highest standards of conduct, demeanor, and sportsmanship.
It shall be the responsibility of each parent to:
1. Recognize that the education of their child(ren) is a joint responsibility of the parents and the school community.
2. Send their children to school ready to participate and learn.
3. Ensure that all absences are excused.
4. Insist their children be dressed and groomed in a manner consistent with the student dress code.
5. Know the school rules and the District Code of Conduct, help their students understand them and support them.
6. Convey to their children a supportive attitude toward education and the district.
7. Build good relationships with teachers, other parents and their children's friends.
8. Help their children deal effectively with peer pressure.
9. Inform school officials of changes in the home situation that may affect student conduct or performance.

As a staff, we agree to:
1. Maintain a climate of mutual respect and dignity.
2. Be prepared to teach.
3. Demonstrate interest in teaching and concern for student achievement.
4. Know school policies and rules and enforce them in a fair and consistent manner.
5. Communicate regularly with students and parents.
The Board of Education encourages parents and other district citizens to visit the district’s schools and classrooms to observe the work of students, teachers and other staff. Since schools are a place of work and learning, however, certain limits must be set for such visits. For these reasons, the following rules apply to visitors to the schools:

1. Anyone who is not a regular staff member or student of the school district will be considered a visitor.

2. All visitors to the school must use the intercom system for entry into the building. Once allowed into the building they must sign in at the window and take a visitor’s identification badge. This badge must be worn in a visible spot at all times while in the school or on school grounds. The visitor must return the ID badge to the office before leaving the school.

3. Visitors attending school functions that are open to the public, such as parent-teacher organization meetings, Good Morning Program, or public gatherings, are not required to register.

4. Teachers should not take class time to discuss individual matters with visitors.

5. Any unauthorized person on school property will be reported to the principal or his or her designee. Unauthorized persons will be asked to leave. The police may be called if the situation warrants.

6. All visitors are expected to abide by the rules for public conduct on school property contained in the Code of Conduct.

7. No students are to bring any visitors to the school.
The safety of each child in our school is the top priority for every educator in the Mount Markham Elementary School program. Towards this end, we present this policy as a way to ensure that your child's learning takes place in a safe environment. **ALL VISITORS** to the school must report to the school office prior to visiting classrooms or teachers.

1. Sneakers, lunches, party treats, etc. should be left in the office to avoid interruptions in the classroom. If it is necessary for any reason to go to the classroom, visitors will first report to the office and pick up a Visitor's Badge.

2. Children arriving late for any reason should report to the office with their excuses. **A child is considered tardy if he/she arrives after 8:25 a.m.**

3. In order to minimize the disruption in your child's schooling parents are asked to schedule doctor, dentist, etc. appointments after school or on non-school days. If it is necessary to pick your child up early:
   a.) A note should come with your child in the morning.
   b.) Arrive as close to the stated pickup time as possible.
   c.) Sign your child out in the main office.
   d.) For bus safety and students' safety, it would be best if students were picked up before 2:00 or after 2:45
   e.) Students being picked up at the end of the day should be signed out in the cafeteria after 2:25.
On Fridays, Pre-K through 1st grade will have Good Morning Program at the traditional time of 8:40-9:10. This program will incorporate elements of student recognitions, student participation, health and wellness, and the Board of Education character education principles of:

- Community
- Respect
- Honesty
- Acceptance
- Dignity
- Citizenship
- Responsibility
-Courtesy
- Civility

Parents, relatives, and community members are welcome to attend and will have seats reserved for them at the rear of the cafeteria. We ask that you not locate in any area other than those reserved seats. We appreciate you taking time from your busy schedule to join us and be involved in our school community.

**Philosophy**

We believe that a student’s positive self-concept is fundamental to academic success in school. Further, a sense of community among our staff and students can be achieved by sharing and understanding the diversity of people and ideas. As a community, we the staff, students, and visitors will interact positively by emphasizing attitudes, values, and academics.

**Goals**

- Students in Good Morning Program will develop a positive self-concept.
- Students in Good Morning Program will be happier about school and learning.
- Students in Good Morning Program will feel that they are an important part of our school community.
- Students in Good Morning Program will be exposed to a variety of positive values, attitudes, and experiences.
- Students in Good Morning Program will be exposed to a variety of curriculum based information.
The seven character traits promoted at Mount Markham Elementary School include:

**Trustworthiness:** Be honest. Don’t deceive, cheat or steal. Be reliable—do what you say you’ll do. Have the courage to do the right thing. Build a good reputation. Be loyal—stand by your family, friends and country.

**Respect:** Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule. Be tolerant of differences. Use good manners, not bad language. Be considerate of the feelings of others. Don’t threaten, hit or hurt anyone. Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements.

**Responsibility:** Do what you are supposed to do.

**Persevere:** keep on trying! Always do your best. Use self-control. Be self-disciplined. Think before you act—consider the consequences. Be accountable for your choices.

**Fairness:** Play by the rules. Take turns and share. Be open-minded; listen to others. Don’t take advantage of others. Don’t blame others carelessly.

**Caring:** Be kind. Be compassionate and show you care. Express gratitude. Forgive others. Help people in need.

**Citizenship:** Do your share to make your school and community better. Cooperate. Stay informed; vote. Be a good neighbor. Obey laws and rules. Respect authority. Protect the environment.
It is compulsory for all students to attend school regularly, except in cases labeled below as legal absences. Absence for any other reason is illegal and is recorded on the student’s permanent record.

It is expected that families plan their vacations in conjunction with the school calendar. Absences for vacations are considered illegal. Excessive illegal absences constitute educational neglect and could result in legal action.

Chronic tardiness is unacceptable and also constitutes educational neglect.

It would be helpful if a parent would call the school nurse each day that a child is absent from school.

A written statement of the reason for absences or tardiness is required upon a student’s return to school. This note is required even if the home was contacted during the student’s absence.

**Legal absences:** A student is legally absent when such absence is based upon any of the following reasons:

1. Illness
2. Unsafe travel
3. Quarantine
4. Music lessons
5. Illness or death in the family
6. Religious observances
7. School supervised project
   (with prior permission)
8. Court appearance
9. Health appointment

**Illegal absences:** A student is illegally absent when such absence is based upon any of the following reasons:

1. Hunting or other sporting activity
   (not a school-sponsored function)
2. Visiting
3. Needed at home
4. Oversleeping
5. Family vacations
6. Babysitting
7. Car trouble
8. Missed bus
9. Truancy—truancy means that a student’s absence is excused by neither the parent nor the school.
**Medical Information**

A Medical Emergency Contact Card is sent home with each student. Please be sure to fill it out, sign it, and return it to the school. Remember to update these cards whenever there is a change of employment or emergency numbers.

If illness occurs in school we may have to send your child home. It is important, therefore, that we have your telephone number and the number of someone who will take care of your child if you cannot be contacted.

If your child is to receive medication during school hours, permission must be obtained from the doctor and parent. Medication is to be brought to school by an adult, preferably by a parent, in the original prescription bottle. Medication should be picked up by a parent at the end of the school year.

Physical examinations are given by the school physician for students in pre-k, kindergarten, grade two and grade four. If you prefer your own doctor, forms are available in the Health Office. This form must be completed and returned to school by December 1.

Student immunizations should be kept up-to-date. Parents will be notified if immunizations are not up-to-date. If an update is not provided as soon as possible, you will be asked to keep your child home until the immunizations are given. If you have any questions, please call the school nurse.

Each school year, your child will be weighed, measured and screened for vision and hearing.

Excuses for absence should accompany your child on the first day back. Please include the date(s) your child was absent and the reason.
Lost and Found

If your child is missing an item, there is a lost and found in the front entry way. The school is not responsible for children's lost items. Please do not send valuable possessions to school such as expensive jewelry and toys and large amounts of money.

Cafeteria

Both breakfast and lunch are offered in the cafeteria. Children may purchase milk to accompany bag lunches. Each classroom has midmorning (or in some cases, early afternoon) snack. Milk may be purchased. A snack food is provided for kindergarten children only.

Recess Policy/Playground Rules

1. Students should be appropriately dressed for the playground. Our School Policy is to have students go outside for recess unless it is raining or the temperature or the wind chill factor goes below 10 degrees. It is important that students be dressed according to the weather.

2. Please remind your children not to throw snow or ice. This has been an ongoing problem on the playground, as children walk to and from buses and at the bus stops. Throwing snow or ice can cause serious injuries. Please reinforce with your children the serious nature of this activity.

3. A child may be kept inside during recess only if there is a note from the physician or if the school nurse feels that going outside would be detrimental on that particular day because of health problems such as asthma.

4. We insist that children have appropriate clothing (boots, hats, mittens, snow pants or snowsuit, sweatshirts or jackets for cooler weather & sneakers/full shoes for the rest of the year). NO flip flops, NO sandals, and NO open back shoes.
1. K & 1 on the red playground only.
2. 3 & 4 on the blue playground only.
3. Grade 2 may play on the blue playground ONLY if there are no 3rd & 4th grade students on it at the time.
4. NO running in the play area.
5. WOOD CHIPS & STONES STAY ON THE GROUND
6. Walk on the pathway to and from the playground area.
7. NO FIGHTING.
8. Use appropriate language.
9. Follow the directions of the recess aides.
10. NO dodge ball.
11. NO tag.
12. NO feet/legs on the handrails for the stairs.

Sit and Spin
1. No spinning other children.
2. Two at a time only.
3. Take turns.

Swings
1. One person at a time.
2. NO jumping off.
3. NO standing on the swings.
4. NO standing in front, behind, or in between the swings.
5. NO twisting.
6. Swing back & forth only—not sideways.
7. NO holding hands.
8. NO climbing on the swing set poles.
**Slides (including Roller Slide and Tube Slide)**
1. Stay seated
2. Feet First
3. NO objects on the slide
4. Down only (no crawling or walking up)
5. One at a time going down
6. No climbing on the outside of the Tube Slide

**Hand Slide**
1. One at a time
2. Only one way (take turns)
3. Use sliders only (not a monkey bar)
4. NO pushing children across

**Climbing Wall**
1. One at a time
2. Hold the rope
3. NO jumping off the top
4. Used for climbing up only (do not climb down)

**Monkey Bars**
1. NO crawling, walking, or sitting on top
2. NO jumping from top
3. NO feet on the bars

**Cork Screw**
1. Stay seated
2. One at a time
3. Down only
**Dress Code**

Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance.

1. Student dress must be safe, appropriate and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process.
2. Extremely brief garments (see through) are not appropriate.
3. Footwear is to be worn at all times. Footwear, such as Healey’s, that is a safety hazard will not be allowed.
4. The wearing of hats or head coverings of any kind are not allowed in the school buildings except for medical or religious purposes.
5. Other student dress may be deemed inappropriate by the teacher or the principal.

**Toys**

Students are allowed to bring toys to school. It is understood that the toys will be used appropriately. **The school will not be responsible for lost or stolen toys.** Teachers may set guidelines for the use of toys in their individual classrooms. Hall monitors and cafeteria supervisors may also set guidelines for the use of toys in the area that they are responsible for supervising.

Toys that are being inappropriately used may be confiscated and kept at the discretion of the teacher/supervisor. Banned toys should be confiscated and brought to the office.

**Bicycles**

Students may ride bicycles to school. Bikes should be parked and locked in the racks provided immediately upon arrival at school. The school assumes no responsibility for vandalism or theft of bicycles.

**Cell Phones**

Students may bring cell phones to school only if the phone is turned off and left in the backpack throughout the school day. Any student who takes the cell phone out of their backpack during the school day will have it confiscated and it will be returned only when a parent comes to school to pick it up.

Students are allowed to call parents during the school day from the phones in the office. Therefore, there should be a few reasons why a student needs to bring a cell phone to school. I would strongly urge that cell phones be left at home unless absolutely necessary. The school cannot insure the security of phones left in backpacks.
Special Days

BIRTHDAYS
If you wish to send in something to celebrate your child’s birthday, please notify your child’s teacher. The school has a policy NOT to give out individual birthday invitations during the school day. We ask that parents either phone or send invitations by mail. A list of addresses for the students in your child’s class is available in the office.

FUN DAY
Near the end of school, the physical education department holds “Fun Days” for students. Notices will be sent home in advance about this event.

FIELD TRIPS
In the beginning of the year, parents are asked to sign one field trip permission slip. Parents will be informed in advance of any proposed field trip.

Open House
Held in September to allow children to introduce their parents to their new teachers and classrooms.
Chaperones

We appreciate parents who take the time to assist teachers and students on field trips. So that everyone involved will have a safe, educational, and enjoyable day we ask that the following Chaperone Expectations be adhered to.

**Chaperone Expectations**

1. Assist with all of the children.
2. Be a role model for the children.
3. Help the children follow the teacher's instructions.
4. Smoking or use of smokeless tobacco is not allowed at any school function, including field trips. Mt. Markham is a "Tobacco Free" School district.
5. Dress appropriately for school and school functions.
6. Conduct yourself as a representative of the school district.
7. The teacher is in charge and must have the final say in all decisions.
8. Please do not purchase things for the children.
9. Stay with the group.
10. Use appropriate language.
11. Enjoy yourself!
Public Conduct on School Property

The district is to provide an orderly, respectful environment that is conducive to learning. To create and maintain this kind of environment, it is necessary to regulate public conduct on school property and at school functions. “Public” shall mean all persons when on school property or attending a school function, including students, parents, teachers, and district personnel.

All persons on school property or attending a school function are expected to be properly attired (clothing that is obscene, violent, or inappropriate, that which contains objectionable language, including insults, or which advocates racial or religious prejudice is forbidden). All persons are required to comply with identifiable school officials. The principal or designee shall address the individual(s) or any inappropriate action(s) which may include a warning, removal, civil or criminal legal action.

Corporal Punishment

Consistent with regulations of the Commissioner of Education which prohibit corporal punishment, the Mount Markham Board of Education affirms that corporal punishment is not a desirable method of enforcing decorum/order of discipline. The Board, therefore, prohibits the use of corporal punishment by district employees.

However, physical restraint/force may be utilized to protect oneself and others from physical injury, to protect the property of the school, and/or to restrain or remove a student whose behavior interferes with the orderly exercise and performance of the school, if that student has refused to refrain from disruptive acts.
Students may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension from school when they:

A. Engage in conduct that is disorderly, such as running in the hallways, making unreasonable noise, and using language or gestures that are inappropriate.

B. Engage in conduct that is insubordinate such as treating school personnel with disrespect or failing to comply with reasonable requests from school personnel.

C. Engage in conduct that is disruptive such as failure to comply with reasonable requests from school personnel, making disruptive noises or gestures, excessive arguing with teachers or harassment of other students.

D. Engage in conduct that is violent, such as committing an act of violence upon another person on school property, possessing a weapon, threatening to use a weapon and intentionally damaging school property or the personal property of someone at school.

E. Engage in conduct that endangers the safety, morals, health, or welfare of others, such as lying, stealing, swearing, intimidation, defamation, discrimination, harassment, possessing obscene material, and inappropriate language.

F. Engage in misconduct while on the school bus.
Disciplinary action will be firm, fair, and consistent. As a general rule, discipline will be progressive. This means that a student’s first violation will usually merit a lighter penalty than subsequent violations.

In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, the following will be considered:

1. The student’s age.
2. The nature of the offense and the circumstances which led to the offense.
3. The student’s prior disciplinary record.
4. The effectiveness of other forms of discipline.
5. Information from parents, teachers and/or others, as appropriate.
6. Other extenuating circumstances.

A. Penalties—Students who are found to have violated the district’s Code of Conduct may be subject to the following penalties, either alone or in combination.
   1. Oral warning
   2. Written warning
   3. Written notification to parent
   4. Recess detention
   5. Detention
   6. Suspension from transportation
   7. Suspension from other privileges
   8. In-school suspension
   9. Removal from classroom by teacher
   10. Suspension

B. Due Process—A student will be informed of the alleged misconduct. School personnel will investigate, to the extent necessary, the facts surrounding the alleged misconduct. Students will have the opportunity to present their version of the facts to school personnel. Parents will be contacted when any penalty beyond a recess detention is imposed.
Section 3214 of Education Law allows a teacher to remove from a classroom a substantially disruptive/violent student who is interfering with the educational process or the teacher’s authority.

A substantial disruption of the educational process occurs when a student demonstrates a persistent unwillingness to comply with the teacher's instructions or repeatedly violates the teacher's classroom behavior rules.

Upon removing a student, the teacher must explain to the student the reason(s) for removal and give an opportunity to the student to explain his/her version of the event. The teacher must contact the principal immediately. If the student poses a danger or ongoing threat to the educational process, he/she can be removed right away without explanation.

The principal must notify the parents by telephone and with a written explanation of the removal within 24 hours. The parents will have an opportunity for an informal conference to meet with the principal and the teacher who removed the student. The informal meeting must be held within 48 hours of the student’s removal or it may be extended by mutual agreement of parent and principal.

After the informal meeting, the principal can sustain or overturn the removal based on the evidence of the events.

No student removed from the classroom by a teacher will be permitted to return to the classroom until the principal makes a final determination or the period of removal expires, whichever is less. Any disruptive student removed from class shall be offered continued educational programming and activities until permitted to return to class. No student with a disability may be removed from a class until the teacher verifies with the principal or CSE (Chairman of Special Education) that the removal will not violate the student’s rights under state or federal laws.
Bus Safety

All bus rules and regulations should be followed by the students of Mount Markham Elementary School. **To ride a school bus is a privilege.** Therefore, we expect all of our students to act appropriately. Otherwise, this privilege may be suspended. Students are reminded to keep the following in mind when riding on the bus:

1. No eating or drinking on the bus.
2. Keep feet off the seats.
3. Remain in your seat until the proper bus stop is reached.
4. Hands and arms are to be kept inside the bus at all times.
5. Obey the bus driver at all times.
6. Keep your hands to yourself.
7. Be ready when the bus arrives.
8. Students must not push, shove, or run to and from the bus.

Students are expected to ride their scheduled buses home except in cases of emergency. Where there is a need to change your child’s bus route, please send a note that tells your child’s name, the name of the person responsible for your child, the address where your child’s going and, if possible, a route number. A phone number where you can be reached would be helpful.

Emergency Closings

If an emergency should arise when school is in session, students will be transported home or to their emergency location. Your children should be instructed what to do if you are not home during the day. School closings, delays in opening or early dismissals due to inclement weather or other emergencies will be announced by local radio stations and by a call from the school as soon as the decision is made. Please do NOT call the stations or schools, simply listen for announcements. No announcement will be made if school is operating normally.

WTLB/Rock 105 - Utica  
WIBX - WNYZ - Utica  
WYUT AM/FM - Herkimer  
WUUN - Rome  
WOUR - Utica  
WFRG - Rome
The Instructional Support Team (IST) is a building team comprised of the principal, the school psychologist, the speech/language therapist, the resource teacher(s) and the reading teacher(s). This team generally meets every week to discuss students referred by classroom teachers. Teachers refer students they feel are having social, emotional and/or learning problems that are impacting their academic achievement.

The IST Team, the teacher and any other pertinent personnel discuss the student’s progress as well as his or her strengths and weaknesses. A variety of outcomes may occur:

1. Suggestions for the teacher to modify the classroom environment or adapt teaching strategies.

2. Initiation of support services - Remedial Reading and/or Math.

3. Inclusion in a group seen by the Resource or Speech/Language Therapist or Occupational Therapist on an informal basis.

4. Individualized testing by Resource, Reading and/or Speech/Language Therapist or Occupational Therapist.


6. Referral to the Committee on Special Education.

7. Set date for review of interventions.

8. No further action is taken.
Additional Services

The following services are available to those children who qualify:

- Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Migrant Tutorial Program
- Counseling
- Remedial Reading
- Remedial Math
- Special Education
- Banana Splits
- Primary Student Advocacy Program (PSAP)

If you would like more information or have questions concerning these programs, please contact the main office at 822-2840.

Report Cards

Students in grades K-4 will receive report cards every ten weeks. Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for all parents at the first 10 weeks and at 30 weeks only if deemed necessary by the teacher and/or parents. Additional conferences may be requested at any time by contacting your child’s teacher.

Report Cards will be going home on:

- November 15, 2017
- January 31, 2018
- April 11, 2018
- June 25, 2018
When homework is assigned, it is expected that it will be completed at home and returned the following day. Homework fosters responsibility and good study habits, as well as reinforces skills previously taught in class. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to share in your child's learning process by encouraging and giving support for his/her effort. Parents may assist with reading, clarifying directions and giving demonstrations on initial items if it is necessary. Parents should sign the paper or otherwise note when extensive help was given.

To make homework a pleasant experience for your child, provide a quiet, well-lit study area free of distraction and equipped with the necessary supplies, parent supervision is recommended. If your child seems to be spending an unreasonable amount of time doing homework, please contact his/her teacher to discuss the situation. A guideline for the amount of time students should be spending on homework each night would be:

- Kindergarten—10 minutes
- First Grade—10 minutes
- Second Grade—20 minutes
- Third Grade—30 minutes
- Fourth Grade—40 minutes

If your child is going to be absent for an extended period of time, you may want to call the school office before 11:00 a.m. to arrange to pick up homework in the office from 2:45-4:00 p.m.
English/Language Arts Assessments

The Early Literacy Profile is given in October and in May. It consists of samplings of the students’ reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. The information is used to assess each student’s strengths and weaknesses in these areas.

Phonemic Awareness assessments are given as needed.

A locally developed Math Assessment will be given at the end of each 10 week marking period.

Terra Nova 3 will be given at the end of September for Kdg, and for the whole building at the end of May. This is for the student growth scores.

Third & Fourth Grade New York State Assessments

The third and fourth grade years are deemed important years by the New York State Education Department. These are the years that students must take major state assessments. These tests are used to determine two things. First, we can determine in which areas each student needs additional help. Second, we can determine the areas that we as a school district need to emphasize more. While the assessments are given in third and fourth grade, they actually assess our educational program from kindergarten through grade four.

The dates of the three assessments are listed below. Please make an effort to avoid scheduling appointments or days away from school on these days as it is very important that all students be present for the assessment.

English/Language Arts - April 11-13, 2018
Math - May 1-3, 2018
Science - Grade 4 - June 4, 2018
**Physical Education**

The primary focus of the physical education is body awareness and control and how health and physical fitness relate to a child’s well-being. Cooperative games, rhythm, fitness and sport skills (soccer, hockey, basketball, volleyball and racquet sports) are the major curriculum areas covered.

Sneakers with laces or velcro are required to participate. Students who wear jewelry to physical education class will be required to either remove the jewelry or cover it with adhesive tape.

A parental excuse is accepted for missing one class due to injury or illness. A doctor's note is necessary for an extended absence.

The goal of the physical education program is to provide opportunities for children to develop physical and social skills and to understand the lifelong importance of those skills.

**Music**

The focus of general music in grades K-4 is on learning concepts and acquiring musical skills through singing, playing musical instruments, movement and dance, reading music and listening to music from all over the world. By the end of grade four, students have had some experience in all of the following:

1.) Reading and singing SA (soprano, alto, two-part) music, singing three and four part rounds, songs with descants, and with rhythmic and melodic ostinatos (sung and played).

2.) Reading and playing songs on melodic instruments (mallet instruments or recorder) in the key of C.

3.) Reading and playing four-part rhythm band music in a variety of musical styles

4.) Accompanying their singing on the autoharp with a simple two-chord and three-chord accompaniments in the keys of C, F, and G.

5.) Composing four-measure rhythmic phrases.

6.) Rhythmic improvisation and melodic improvisation to a limited degree.
Art

Children in grades three and four receive art instruction for 40 minutes each week throughout the whole school year. Students in Kindergarten through second grade receive 30 minutes each week for the whole year.

Library

Students in kindergarten through fourth grade receive library instruction for 30 minutes each week. Students are introduced to a variety of literature including fiction, nonfiction, biographies and poetry. Students are provided information on the proper care and handling of library materials. Parents are urged to support their children and to ensure their success in school by reading to them on a daily basis for about 10 to 15 minutes.

Technology

Each class in the Elementary school is scheduled to be in the computer lab 40 minutes each week. In addition, 20 minutes of keyboarding instruction is given to third and fourth grade children. As we continue to advance in the Age of Technology, our teachers have integrated the use of Technology into their curriculum in an effort to improve student learning.

The Internet has become a powerful and valuable learning tool, but it does create the need for increased measures of control. As a district, we have installed a program called “X Stop,” which blocks the viewing and downloading of inappropriate words and materials. We also train our students on the proper procedures to follow in the event they should accidentally “come across” some inappropriate materials. It is recommended that children be supervised by an adult at all times.
I have read the Mount Markham Elementary School Student Handbook and the Policy for acceptable use of District Technology.

__________________________________________
Student’s Name

__________________________________________
Teacher—Grade

__________________________________________  _______________________
Parent’s Signature  Date

Please tear off this page and return it to your child’s classroom teacher.