

August 30, 2019

August-September 2019 Newsletter

WELCOME TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

Dear Fourth Grade Families,

We hope that you all had a wonderful summer vacation and are looking forward to fourth grade as much as we are! We welcome all new and returning families and look forward to getting to know all of you. Thanks for helping to jumpstart this process by attending the Meet the Teacher Night sessions.

We are very excited to welcome Miss Karissa Kamidoi to the Mountain View fourth grade team! Miss Kamidoi has been teaching 5th and 6th grade at a project-based learning school in Castle Rock for the past several years. The rest of the team—Miss Allshouse, Mrs. Treese, and Mr. Shaffer—remains the same. Having four teachers again means that class sizes are around 22-24 and that we have technology as part of our specials rotation. We are quite thankful for both! This year, each teacher will be teaching all subjects, so no more rotating and switching teachers for different subjects (except for specials).

This newsletter will be published monthly, posted to our fourth grade web page no later than the first Friday of each month. We ask that you take a few minutes to read over each newsletter for information regarding curriculum, events, and other important news. Newsletters for prior months will be kept up on the web site all year long.

ACADEMICS

Fourth grade students have begun the first of six literacy units. In reading, the first unit is a study of poetry and short fiction, focusing on the different structures of genres, making connections between texts of poems and illustrations/oral presentations. Students should be reading independently for a minimum of 20 minutes per night right now, but this will increase to 30 minutes by October.

In writing, students will soon begin working on narratives (stories) using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

Unit 1 in math focuses on concepts related to place value, multi-digit addition and subtraction, and geometry. The end-of-unit (summative) assessment should be in mid-September. Unit 2 extends students' knowledge of multiplication and geometry. Please refer to the Family Letter for each unit—either on paper or on our web site—for more details about each unit.

We have begun our first science unit, which is on energy. We will explore the different forms and transformations of energy. Students will be engaged in many hands-on investigations. This unit will run through October. There will be an end-of-unit assessment, as well as smaller assessments throughout the unit.

Social Studies begins with a unit on personal financial literacy, specifically the relationship between economic choices and opportunity cost. In unit 2, students will learn about the organization of Colorado's government.

More detailed descriptions of what is happening in each area can be found on the Reading Page, Science Page, etc. of our fourth grade web site.

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REMINDERS

The sign up for Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences will be done using SignUp Genius. The links for each teacher will be sent out in mid-September.

Remember that we have a Lost and Found area outside of the gym if any items have gone missing. Expensive or breakable items, like eyeglasses, are kept in the office.

Please consult Mountain View's web site (mountain.adams12.org) for important dates and information. You can reach the fourth grade page or individual teachers' pages from there, too.

PTO information can be accessed from the above web site, as well. Just go to the "Family Resources" tab, then to "Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO)." Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30, and free child care is provided.

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, August 29th - Picture Day and Curriculum Night (4:45 - 5:45 and 6:00 - 7:00).

Monday, September 2nd - Labor Day, no school

Tuesday, September 3rd - Assessment Day

7:35 - 9:30 - Session #1

9:40 - 11:35 - Session #2

12:35 - 2:30 - Session #3

Sign up for Assessment Day using SignUp Genius. Please contact your child's teacher if you need help.

Wednesday, October 9th - Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

We will again teach 15 minutes of social emotional learning each day, continuing to build on what we began last year. This time may involve class meetings, sharing, celebrating birthdays, and teaching lessons about feelings and behavior. The overall idea is to help build a classroom community where students value and support each other and learn to manage their feelings and frustrations appropriately. We will also be using the Second Step curriculum this year, which involves the above plus anti-bullying.

We will continue to use the "Mountain View Way," which asks students to be safe, be kind, do their job, and show initiative. Students can earn individual rewards (ROCK coupons) for this. Classes can earn rewards (mountains) from staff members other than their classroom teacher for demonstrating the above behaviors. Classrooms then redeem their mountains for different rewards (extra recess, wear PJs to school, guest reader, lunch with the principal, etc.) throughout the year.

We will use Love and Logic principles in the classroom, too. This program strives to make students responsible for their behaviors and to have them problem solve when they do something that disrupts the learning environment or creates a problem for another.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Education is a collaborative process, and families, students, and staff all need to work together to make it successful.

Thanks very much for reading!

