



**GUNNISON
WATERSHED**
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Driven to Be the Difference

Dear Parents,

Welcome to 4th Grade! I have spent these past week and a half getting to know your children and have already fallen in love with our class. We have an amazing group of kids. I know we are going to have a fabulous year!

We're spending these first few weeks focusing on building our community of learners. I believe that in these beginning years of school it is important that students are excited to come to school, excited to learn, and feel safe to take risks and be individuals.

Below you will find information about our schedule, curriculum, homework, and happenings in 4th grade. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Schedule:

- 4th grade has a morning and afternoon snack. Please make sure to pack enough snacks, in addition to lunch.
- Lunch is from 11:40-12:00, followed by recess from 12:00-12:20.
- Afternoon recess is from 2:00-2:20.
- Specials are from 9:55-10:45 (9:40-10:20 on Wednesdays).
- See our [schedule](#) to see what specials we have each day.
- Please pack a water bottle for your child. I will be sending water bottles home each night to be washed.

Curriculum:

- Reading and writing are taught in a workshop format. This means that students will be reading and writing at their own level. There will be a mini-lesson which addresses the academic focus for the week and then students will take part in independent reading and writing.
- We use the University of Chicago's Everyday Mathematics curriculum. We will also supplement this program with problem solving, fact practice, and critical thinking work.
- We focus on one science or social studies unit at a time. The units are:
 - Geography of Colorado
 - Colorado History
 - Local Mining History
 - Energy and Waves
 - Human Body Systems
 - Earth's Processes
- Blended Learning: This year we will be focusing on presenting material in a blended learning format. What this means is that the students will be able to use their Google Classroom to complete work at school or at home

if they have to be absent. We will spend the first few weeks becoming familiar with the online portion so that students can work independently through assignments.

Homework:

- We believe that it is important for students to spend quality time with their family in the evenings. We also value the importance of unstructured learning and exploring when outside of school. For that reason you will find there is minimal homework this year.
- Students are expected to read for a minimum of 30 minutes each night. They are then expected to write a high quality reading response on their homework log. They may read independently or with an adult.
- There may be other times when assignments need to be completed at home. We will make sure to give you plenty of time to work on them and they will be noted on the weekly homework log.
- If you would like additional homework for your child, there will be resources available in their Google Classroom, which will be up and running soon.

Gratitude Project:

We're embarking on a year long gratitude project.

- We take time during our morning meeting to take notice of the people we are grateful for.
- We practice the art of letter writing and tell them how much we love them with a handwritten note.
- You may be receiving emails with requests for addresses (grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, etc). Thank you in advance for sending me any addresses you have.

I am looking forward to working with you and your child this year. Like I said before, I believe that effective communication is imperative for a successful year. I will be sending home a newsletter each Friday letting you know what we are working on, I post photos and happenings from our classroom [here](#), as well as send periodic updates to individual families. Please let me know if there is anything else you need. It's going to be a great year!

Thank you,
Kylie