



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Fourth Grade! I have spent this past week 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 formative years it is important that students are excited to come to school, are eager to learn, and feel safe to express themselves as individuals.

Below you will find information about our schedule, curriculum, homework, and other important fourth-grade information.

Schedule:

- We eat morning and afternoon snacks. Please make sure to pack enough snacks each day. Please also send a water bottle each day.
- Lunch is from 11:40-12:00, followed by recess from 12:00-12:20.
- Specials are from 8:45-9:35 (8:45-9:30 on Wednesdays).
- W.I.N. (What I Need) replaces what used to be called book clubs. At this time, students will go to groups focused on targeted interventions and specific skills. These groups will be designed using iReady diagnostic results, classroom assessment data, and teacher observations.
- G.U.L.P (gobble, unwind, listen, play) is a scheduled break in our afternoon. This time includes snacks, brain breaks, read-aloud, and playtime inside or outside. Instead of a scheduled afternoon recess, this time allows for more flexibility in our schedule.
- See our [schedule](#) to see what our day looks like in the classroom.

Communication

I believe that effective communication is imperative for a successful year. I send a newsletter each Friday detailing our academic focuses for the following week. I post photos and happenings to our classroom website (www.kyliesclass.com). I will send periodic individual student updates. We will meet in November and March for parent/teacher conferences. I'm available by email or phone if you have questions or concerns.

Technology:

We will continue to use Chromebooks in the classroom. Many assignments will be housed in Google Classroom. This fosters a sense of independence and responsibility, allows students to become tech-savvy, practice digital citizenship, and continue to participate in classwork when absent.



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 that addresses the academic focus for the week, and then students will take part in independent reading and writing. Vocabulary, spelling, and grammar instruction are embedded in the curriculums.
- This year our class will be piloting a new math curriculum called Illustrative Math. This is a standards-based, inquiry curriculum. Students will take part in individual and group activities that lead to a deep understanding of the fourth-grade standards. The units are organized by concept with embedded review in the daily routines.
- We focus on one science or social studies unit at a time. Our science units are energy and waves, human body systems, and Earth's processes. Our social studies units are Colorado geography, Colorado history, local mining history, and personal financial literacy.

Homework:

We believe that it is important for students to spend quality time with their families in the evening. We also value the importance of unstructured learning and exploration when outside of school. Homework should be a time to set up good routines and study habits at home, but should not take over your entire evening.

- Students are expected to read for a minimum of 60 minutes a week. You can structure this how it works best for your schedule.
- Students are expected to complete one math activity at home each week. We will alternate sending home math fact practice and curriculum practice.
- There will be periodic projects and other assignments. We will give you plenty of notice and time to complete these, and they will always be marked on the weekly homework log.

I am looking forward to working with you and your child this year. It's going to be a great year!

Thank you,

Kylie