

Welcome Letter

Aug 13, 2024

Hello 4th-Grade Families,

Welcome to 4th grade! My name is Mrs. Sherrill and I will be your child's **Math and Science** teacher this year. This will be my 4th year at Cory and my 19th year in the classroom. Teaching is my passion, I have taught in three Denver metro districts, with experience with Title I schools working directly with newcomers, to coaching teachers and providing district professional development. I am an educational advocate and partner with the Public Education Business Coalition and work to support educating professional educators who are new to the profession by providing hands-on real-time learning by watching, reflecting and doing. I am a Cory mom to a second grader and a fourth grader, and the opportunity to serve my Cory community is such a gift during this season in my life. It is truly an honor to connect with the students and families in my community. I look forward to partnering with each of you to ensure the success of your kiddo!

I am inspired when my learners are curious, ask questions, and feel free to take learning risks, therefore, I believe that student success is grounded in three main principles; community, curiosity and joy. When we can ignite wonder, provide appropriate resources and give children the time to think, discuss and ponder; children reach a level of engagement and deep thought will build lifelong learners. In my class, students will engage in a balance of teacher guided instruction, self driven exploration, skills instruction/practice and time to apply their learning through class and community projects. When we can make learning meaningful and fun, all students can thrive.

As I welcome your students into my classroom next Monday, we will begin day one making connections with peers, organizing the supplies and learning about the routines and expectations that each child can expect every day. When students know what to expect, they are more prepared to receive new learning, so the first week we are laying the groundwork to set them up for success for the remainder of the year. We will explore the concept of a growth mindset and engage in both team and individual experiences that will allow students to reflect on and practice developing a growth mindset. As we explore the

concepts we will study in math and science, students will ground in lessons on what it means to be a mathematician and a scientist to make connections to what we will study to their community and beyond.

Math instruction this year will provide students with opportunities to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills. Students will explore strategies to create a deep understanding of mathematical concepts and the communication skills needed to be a collaborative and reflective learner. I believe in providing rigorous, student centered instruction that comes to life with authentic experiences, class discussions, games and unique ways of demonstrating and celebrating their learning.

In math this year, students will receive instruction based on their individual needs and often, their work or skills being practiced may be different than other students. By helping students know what they know, and what the next steps in their learning journey are, they are able to pace their own learning and make incredible growth towards their academic goals.

In Science, we will be exploring the natural phenomena of our ever-changing world. When they wonder, question and learn how to seek answers, through observation, data collection, analysis and collaboration, they can begin to answer their own questions and create a deep understanding of our world. This year we will use *Mystery Science* and *Discovery Education* as resources to drive our instruction as well as incorporating opportunities for STEAM challenges to engage students in that critical inquiry and purposeful work.

I believe that I have the BEST job in the world, and being able to learn with and from your child is an honor. Thank you for sharing your most precious gift with me, and I look forward to being a part of your village and serving your child and your family this year.

Love and light,

Maddie Sherrill

4/5 Math & Science Teacher | Cory Elementary

Phone: 720-424-8380

Website: <https://sites.google.com/dpsk12.net/sherrills-class-hub/home>

** Please see below for additional information for the first week back. **

4th Grade Curriculum

Math: Incoming 4th grade students should be able to fluently:

- multiply single digit numbers
- add and subtract 3-digit numbers using the standard algorithm (vertical)
- calculate area and perimeter using given formulas
- explain fractional part-whole relationship
- identify 3-digit values using place value
- Our first math unit explores place value, rounding and algorithms for addition and subtraction, with an emphasis on the base ten number system.

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5th Grade Curriculum

Math: Incoming 5th grade students should be able to fluently:

- multiply multi-digit numbers using standard algorithm
- divide 4-digit dividends by 1-digit divisors using standard algorithm ($4,236 \div 3$)
- add and subtract fractions with common denominators
- find equivalent fractions using multiplication/division
- add and subtract 6-digit numbers and beyond ($600,002 - 23,467$)

*Zearn, Khan Academy, and Freckle are excellent resources to keep these skills sharp.

Our first math unit explores place value and decimal fractions with an emphasis on ten times more and ten times less in the base ten number system. This system, like our money

system, is an infinite pattern that is crucial for supporting deep understanding of the math concepts we will cover.

Sherrill's Class Hub (AKA Class Website)

I have a class [website](#) for Math and Science that will provide you with up to date information about Math and Science content which will be updated regularly to reflect the learning we are doing in class. My hope is that the website will provide a bridge of communication to help support your young learners. The current link is live, but it is under construction and you will see it transform over the next couple of weeks, so you may see changes in some of the information and/or format as next week progresses, but here you will find a plethora of information to help you support your child at home.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT:

We are excited to welcome our families for our Back to School Night on **Thursday, August 15th from 5:00 - 6:30**. Ms. Wieser will send out a link to a video Wednesday evening with details about my class and what to expect so you can come with any questions you may have about the class and the first week students are back.

See the schedule below for details.

5:00-6:30 Building open to families

5:00-5:15 Principal and AP Presentation- session 1

5:15-6:15 Parents in Classrooms

6:00-6:15 Principal and AP Presentation- session 2

6:15-6:30 Popsicles

ORGANIZATION:

Students will be using colored folders this year to manage, store, and organize their materials. We will not be storing anything in desks, since we will share our space with another class, but students will each have a space in which they can leave their classwork from day to day. Home folders and other personal materials (pencil pouch, headphones,

independent reading book, incomplete work, etc) should come home every night and back to school every day! Please help them keep their belongings organized.

BEHAVIOR:

If a student is having trouble with classroom expectations (disturbing others or unable to complete their work), they may need help to get back on track -- I will remind them of the expectations and provide feedback on improved behavior.

Repeated offenses will result in communication home and a plan for restorative action if needed. I believe all behavior is a result of a need, so when we can partner to understand your child better, we can determine next steps that will support the learning of your child and help them to find success in the classroom.

SNACKS AND TREATS:

- **Birthday Celebrations:** Cory has a no-food policy for celebrating all birthdays. Students will enjoy their special day at school and will get to visit the office to receive a book to keep for their birthday treat! Please save special food treats for celebrations at home.
- **Snacks:** Students will have a “Snack Break/Wall Break” everyday after specials 10:05. This break time give students movement, fresh air, sun and food! We encourage students to bring a healthy snack to eat during the morning. Something quick and easy that does NOT require silverware and has a minimum of mess, is ideal. Please, no chips or junk food, candy and no peanuts due to allergies. I will also be asking for donations throughout the year for shared snacks for kids who forgot a snack, or are just a little extra hungry, I try to prevent HANGER!
- **Drinks:** Please send your child with a water bottle that closes tightly. No other drinks (gatorade, iced tea, lemonade, Prime, etc) will be allowed in the classroom, but students can bring those types of beverages for lunch if they choose!

COMMUNICATION:

This year, I will use **ReachWell** to post important information about upcoming events, curriculum updates, reminders, and other logistics, as well as our class newsletter each Monday. You can also use it to message me for quick questions. More information about

how to join will come soon, but please ask me if you need any support! It's new to us all, but we are excited about its potential.

The best way to reach me for specific academic questions or concerns related to math, science or school related is through email (madelynn_sherrill@dpsk12.net). I check my email daily at lunch, and in the later afternoon after students are dismissed, and I strive to respond within 24 business hours. It may take longer over the weekend. For social-emotional concerns or other issues that may affect your child throughout the day, **please cc both Ms. Hanock and myself** so we can work as a team to support your student! For pick-up changes, please call the office, in case I don't see it before the end of the day.

Each student will be given a **home/school folder**, which should travel between school and home daily in their backpack. Home Folders will contain graded student work as well as school announcements and information. Students will be responsible for bringing it home each night - please build the habit of checking it with them each evening or morning. You can also be on the lookout for information from Cory in the Parent Post, and on our Cory Facebook page: www.facebook.com/coryelementary.

Please make sure your email information is up-to-date and let the office know of any changes. I'm looking forward to a great year!

PICK UP/ DROP OFF

Bell time for next year 8:15-3:15 BUT, teachers will be out to bring students into the building at 8:10.

Start of the Day

- Students can be dropped off at the playground at 8:00 without supervision, students must be with a guardian prior to this. This includes walkers, bikers and kiss and go.
- 8:10 is the first bell and 8:15 is the tardy bell. All students who come to school after 8:15 will need to get a pass from the front office.
- 4th and 5th grade will enter & exit through the **south doors** on the playground.

End of Day

- 3:15 Dismissal – students may not stay and play without an adult present.
- Supervision will end at 3:20 and all remaining students will be taken to the office to contact family. If you come to the school after 3:20, please head to the office to meet your child.

Kiss and Go Reminders

- Please remember that all pick ups and drop off will be done on the NORTH side of Iowa, facing east ONLY.
- We do not want anyone crossing the street unless at a crosswalk.
- Safety for ALL is our priority.

SUPPLIES

If you ordered supplies for your child, they should arrive on the first day of school. If you did not order a box, no worries, here is a [list of supplies](#) that we are requesting. If your child needs any support in getting supplies or if you would like to donate extra supplies, please contact me directly and we will work to ensure all students have a successful start to the school year.

DAILY SCHEDULE

5th Grade AM w/ Mrs. Sherrill

8:10 Arrive

8:15 Welcome Work

8:25 Morning Meeting

8:35 Science

9:15 Specials

10:05 Snack/Walk Break

10:20 - 11:55 Math

4th Grade PM w/ Mrs. Sherrill

12:00 - 12:45 Lunch/Recess

12:45 Science

1:25 Math

3:10 Daily Reflection

3:15 Dismissal on Playground

IMPORTANT DATES:

- August 15th Back to School Night @ 5:00
- August 19th 3rd - 5th Grade Begin School
- August 19th 1st & 2nd Grade Assessment schedule
- August 20th 1st & 2nd Grade Assessment schedule
- August 21st First day back for students (full day)
- Sept. 1st CSC meeting at 4:00 PM in the Library
- September 2nd No school for students, Labor Day
- September 7th SLT Meeting at 3:40 in the Library