

**Welcome Letter**  
**August 11, 2025**

Hello 4th-Grade Families,

Welcome to 4th grade! We have a very busy and exciting year in store. As partners in your child's education, together we can make a lasting impact. Teaching begins with making your child feel at home in our classrooms and developing a community where diverse learners can come together. We look forward to an engaging year of learning!

About Ms. Miller:

I am so excited to be your child's literacy teacher this year! I can't wait to share my love of reading and writing with your kids, and help them develop their own passion for language. My classroom is a safe, welcoming, and engaging place, where kids are encouraged to ask questions, try new things, make mistakes, and have fun. I focus on creating a strong community of learners, where kids are invested in their own growth, as well as the growth of their classmates. We celebrate one another daily, and create lasting memories.

I have been teaching since 2008, when I began my career in Washington, DC. I have taught grades 4-8 throughout my career, but grades 4 and 5 are definitely my favorite. This is my 7th year teaching at Cory, and I just adore this community.

Educational Background:

- BS in Middle Childhood Education
- M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction: Literacy Specialist
- Endorsements: Elementary Education, Middle School Language Arts, Middle School Social Studies, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Learners, Reading Teacher, Reading Specialist, Gifted and Talented Specialist

I grew up in Detroit, and lived on the east coast for over ten years before moving to Colorado in 2019. I live in Thornton with my old man dog, Rudy. I also have a foster dog at the moment named Lady. She has some medical needs so she may end up becoming a permanent member of my family....only time will tell! In my free time, I enjoy reading, writing, hiking, horseback riding, and spending time with friends and family.

About Mrs. Weaver:

I am thrilled to be your child's math, science, and social studies teacher this year! I am passionate about engaging students in meaningful learning opportunities and creating a

joyful classroom environment with a strong sense of community. I strive to make students feel safe to take risks and grow, and get to know each child on a personal level. If you walk into my classroom, you'll often see a buzz of learning excitement and students frequently collaborating with one another to grapple with challenging content.

I have been teaching grades 3-5 since 2008, and have taught in four districts in Colorado and California. This will be my tenth year of teaching at Cory. I spent 8 years teaching 3rd grade before making the switch to teach fourth and fifth grade math/science/social studies last year.

**Educational Background:**

- BA in English Literature: CU Boulder
- MA in Educational Psychology and teaching credential: CU Denver
- EdD in Leadership for Educational Equity: CU Denver
- Gifted and Talented Specialist

I am a Colorado native and live in Centennial with my husband, Ross, and our three children: Logan, Wyatt, and Josie. Logan is in seventh grade, Wyatt is in fifth grade, and Josie is in first grade this year. When I am not teaching, you will often find me cheering on my kids at MANY sporting events and walking our dog, Ruby. I also love to run, ski, camp, hike, mountain bike, and travel whenever I get the chance.

**4th Grade Curriculum**

**MATH**

This is our first year of implementing the new Illustrative Math curriculum district-wide. This is a problem-based curriculum where students will learn important critical thinking skills and real-world application.

**4th Grade Math Units:**

- Factors and Multiples
- Fraction Equivalence and Comparison
- Extending Operations to Fractions
- From Hundredths to Hundred-thousands
- Multiplicative Comparison and Measurement
- Multiplying and Dividing Multi-digit Numbers
- Angles and Angle Measurement
- Properties of Two-Dimensional Shapes

## SCIENCE and SOCIAL STUDIES Units:

<b>4th Science</b>
Ecosystem Restoration
Earth's Features
Modeling Matter
Earth's systems
<b>4th Social Studies</b>
Colorado History
Natural Resources
Economic Choices

**Reading:** All incoming 4<sup>th</sup> grade students need to be reading chapter-length fiction and nonfiction books that are at or above grade level. Please have your child read aloud to you and discuss their thinking about what they've read. NewsELA is a great tool for students to read non-fiction current events articles online ([www.newsela.com](http://www.newsela.com) - use the free version/no account necessary) at a variety of reading levels.

Our first literacy unit focuses on characteristics of personal narratives. Students will be exploring the genre through reading and writing, and will craft their own personal narratives, based on experience. Students will study author's craft by reading narratives from a variety of different authors, and will notice how different writing moves contribute to readers' understanding and engagement in a text.

**Writing:** Incoming 4th grade students must have a solid grasp of paragraph writing including correctly capitalizing letters, writing in complete sentences, and correct end punctuation. Students should be able to write short stories with a simple problem and solution. In nonfiction writing, students should be comfortable citing evidence to support their thinking and be able to find the main ideas of texts and articles.

## Back to School Night

We are excited to welcome our families for our Back to School Night on **Wednesday, August 13th! Please leave school supplies at home! They should come to school with your child on the first day, so that we can sort and organize everything.**

### **Pick Up & Drop Off**

Bell time for next year 8:15-3:15 BUT, students can enter the building at 8:10

#### Start of the Day

- Students can be dropped off at the playground at 8:05 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 3:25 and all remaining students will be taken to the office to contact family.

#### Kiss and Go Reminders

- Please remember that all pick ups and drop off will be done on the NORTH side of Iowa.
- 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.

**Snacks:** Fourth graders will have lunch/recess at 12:00 pm this year. 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 and no peanuts due to allergies.

**Drinks:** Students should bring a reusable water bottle, labeled with their name (no glass, please). Bottles that can close tightly without leaks are preferred. Juice or other drinks are not allowed in the classroom, but students may bring those types of drinks to lunch.

Enjoy your last week of summer and know we will be working away to get ready for a successful year of learning and growing together.

Warm Regards,

Meghan Miller and Sarah Weaver

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