

# Welcome Letter

August 14, 2024

Hello 4th and 5th Grade Families,

Welcome back! My name is Laura Hanock and I will be your child's Literacy and Social Studies teacher next year. This year will be my 6th year at Cory, but I have been a classroom teacher for the past 15 years and still have the same passion and drive that I did when I first started teaching... In many cases, it has amplified!

At the beginning of the year, we will work hard to make connections with each other, identify what type of learners we are and what we need to be the best version of ourselves, both academically and personally. I work really hard to create a safe and happy learning environment for each one of my students and believe that through strong rapport and relationships, the inevitability of success is much greater!

As I welcome your students into my classroom, we will start day one making connections. I want to know them as humans and learners. I believe all students learn with their head and their heart, and when we create a safe space for both, we can create life long, confident learners. The start of the year we will work together to set up our classroom structures and routines, as well explore the ways in which we learn best to build the foundational skills for being a reflective learner. We will explore the concept of a growth mindset and engage in both team and individual experiences that will allow students to practice their growth mindset in fun and exciting ways.

Literacy instruction has multiple components. First, we will be reading books and texts as a class, while targeting different literacy skills. We will have a Book Club, that will be established after we have our classroom procedures down pat... Typically about a month after the start of the year.

In our Book Clubs, I like to give the students the autonomy to choose books that look interesting to them. I place about 6-10 books around the classroom. They move from one group to another, they write down their top 3 choices to read. I do my best to place each student in a group from one of their top 3 choices. Really take control of their book clubs. They schedule out their reading for the next day and the discussion question/thinking work that they would like to complete. They come in the next day, ready to have a Book Club Conversation.

In addition to reading, the students will be building a lot of historical content knowledge this year. I have created documentaries, or Deep Dives, that coincide with the chapters of some of the historical fiction books that we read.

In fourth grade we will dive into the people and historical events surrounding Womens' Suffrage and Colorado State History.

In fifth grade, we will go deep into the people and historical events surrounding the Depression, the Dust Bowl and so much more. It has been proved that deficits in reading comprehension link back to a lack of content knowledge. We are about to change that!

I am so excited to meet each and every one of my students and looking forward to partnering with each of you! It is going to be a WONDERFUL year!! I can feel it!!

Love and light,

Laura Hanock

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

### **4th Grade Curriculum (Year at a Glance)**

#### **Literacy Units of Study:**

We are beginning a new curriculum called CKLA:

- Personal Narratives
- Empires in the Middle Ages
- Poetry
- Eureka (Science Investigation)
- Geology
- Contemporary Fiction
- American Revolution
- Treasure Island

### **5th Grade Curriculum (Year at a Glance)**

- **Colonization and the American Revolution**
- **UDHR (United Declaration of Human Rights)**
- **Esperanza Rising (novel study and Deep Dives)**
- **Jackie Robinson - Using sports as a platform to influence change**

#### **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**. I will send out a video next week with details about my class and what to expect so you can come with any wonderings you may have.

See the schedule below for details.

5:00 - 6:00 Meet your Teacher/ Classrooms Open

6:00 - 6:30 Popsicle on the Playground

## **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 8:00 without supervision, students must be with a guardian prior to this. This includes walkers, bikers and kiss and go. Students will line up on spot 16 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.

### 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:** Students 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. 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:** 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.

**Teacher Contact:** I will use ReachWell as my primary communication tool to share updated information, but you can also email me directly. My classroom phone will not ring during school hours so messaging will be more effective.

I cannot wait to begin the year!! It is going to be amazing!

