

Ms. Raiola's 5th Grade Literacy Class

Dear Fifth Grade Families,

Students, welcome to our 5th grade literacy class! I hope everyone had an amazing summer break and I cannot wait to hear all about it during our first week back. We are going to work hard and have fun in 5th grade this year. We will create long lasting memories and connections as we build our classroom community together, where all students are welcome!

I am thrilled to join the Cory school community this year! This is my third year teaching in DPS and my first year at Cory Elementary. Prior to teaching in DPS, I taught a variety of grade levels for six years in St. Paul, Minnesota where I am from. I moved to Denver because I love to ski, hike and go camping. My other hobbies include cooking, baking and yoga. I am so excited to get this year started and learn more about YOU!

Parents, I am honored to teach your amazing students and I am looking forward to partnering with you to ensure your student's success and engagement this year! Please join us for Back-to-School Night this Thursday August 15th. After reading through the information below, feel free to contact me via email to discuss any concerns or questions you might have, or come with questions to Back-To-School Night! I am looking forward to meeting your family!

Sincerely,

Jenna Raiola
5th Grade Literacy / Literacy Intervention Teacher
Jenna_raiola@dpsk12.net

Cory office: (720) 424-8380

Room 205 (Literacy) Daily Schedule:	Parent Homework!
12:00-12:45 Recess/Lunch 12:45-3:10 Literacy Block 3:10-3:15 Clean up/Pack up 3:15 Dismissal	Parents! Please send me an email about your child. I would love to hear what your hopes and dreams are for them, what they are interested in, and any other things you think might be helpful as we begin the year. Also, if you could please send in a family photo to hang outside our classroom, that would be wonderful! Printed or emailed is great. At the very bottom of this letter there is information regarding the BESS Social Emotional Screener. Please see below.

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**

Guided Reading/Independent Work (Workshop):

In this part of the day, all students will be participating in a variety of literacy activities in order to work on differentiated skills. Activities will include:

- meeting in small groups with a teacher to discuss novels, build vocabulary knowledge, and work on written responses to text
- working in small groups with our reading support partners to strengthen their phonics or comprehension skills, or go in-depth into topics of personal interest
- reading independently (both to prepare for novel study groups and to explore topics or genres of personal interest)
- writing independently (memoirs about personal experiences, creative fiction, poetry, etc)
- discussing their writing and reading with peers
- challenging themselves with extension projects

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 4th graders, but students will each have a “mailbox” 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.

HOMEWORK:

- Independent reading (30 minutes nightly)
 - **Your child should be reading a book of their choice each night at home, for 30 minutes or more.** Ideally, this would be a book that is interesting, at an appropriate level, and that they can stick with, rather than starting and stopping multiple books. I encourage students to bring a book back and forth from home to school, rather than reading multiple books at once!
- Incomplete guided reading work (as needed)
 - All students will be working independently on short term assignments related to their guided reading group – generally consisting of several chapters to read and a written response. Students will have time to work on these assignments during the day, and will typically complete them in class, but may occasionally need to bring home their work to finish.

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.
- **Drinks:** Please send your child with a water bottle that closes tightly. No other drinks (gatorade, iced tea, lemonade, 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 literacy is through email (jenna_raiola@dpsk12.net). For social-emotional concerns or other issues that may affect your child throughout the day, **please cc both Mr. Egland and myself** so we can work as a team to support your student! For pick-up changes, please call the office.

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!

Jenna Raiola



**MENTAL HEALTH
MATTERS**

SCAN HERE!!!!

**BESS SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SCREENER - PARENT RATINGS
REQUIRED FOR PARENTS WITH STUDENTS IN GRADES 1-2,
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 3-5**

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS, PLEASE HELP US, HELP YOUR CHILD GROW SOCIALLY AND EMOTIONALLY! TAKE 5 (OR LESS!) MINUTES TO COMPLETE THE BEHAVIORAL AND EMOTIONAL SCREENING SYSTEM (BESS) SCREENER FOR YOUR CHILD. THIS HELPS US TO BETTER UNDERSTAND YOUR CHILD'S SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL NEEDS. THE FALL 2024 RATING IS NOW OPEN. THERE WILL BE TWO MORE PARENT SCREENERS IN WINTER AND SPRING.

LINK:
[HTTPS://REVIEW360CONNECT.COM/PROD/DENVERPUBLICSCHOOLS/
PARENT](https://review360connect.com/prod/denverpublicschools/parent)

**** PLEASE SEE THE PARENT PORTAL FOR YOUR CHILD'S STUDENT NUMBER. YOU WILL ALSO BE ASKED TO ENTER YOUR CHILD'S DATE OF BIRTH. ****

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS' SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL NEEDS!