

Welcome Letter
August 13, 2024

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 6th 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 animals, Rudy (dog) and Bleaker (cat). I also have a horse named Poppy who lives close by and keeps me very busy. 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 and science 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 4 districts in Colorado and California. For the last 8 years I have taught third grade here at Cory and I feel so fortunate to work at this amazing school. I am excited to embark on a new adventure as a fourth and fifth grade math teacher. I couldn't pass up the chance to get to teach more of my favorite content area! I look forward to connecting with my students and helping them grow as they prepare to spread their wings a bit in middle school.

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. When I am not teaching, you will often find me cheering on my kids at 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

Our first math unit explores place value, rounding and algorithms for addition and subtraction, with an emphasis on the base ten number system.

- Using the 4 operations to solve problems involving whole numbers
- Generalizing understanding of place value for multi-digit whole numbers
- Performing multi digit arithmetic
- Extending upon foundational understanding of fractions
- Working with decimals and comparison to fractions

SCIENCE

We will be learning about space, sound, energy, and the human body this year!

Reading: All incoming 4th 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 - 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 **Thursday, August 15th from 5:00 - 6:40**. See the schedule below for details.

5:00 - 5:15 Principal Welcome in the Auditorium

5:00-5:30 Meet the Teachers (Rooms 202 and 203)

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 8:10 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 12:10 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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