

Dear Families,

Welcome to 5th grade! We are excited to be able to loop up to 5th grade with our former 4th graders, along with a few new kids! We have a very busy and exciting year in store. We will continue to build a community where diverse learners can come together, and from which we can reach out into the world, thinking about complex problems and the differences that each individual can make. Please think of us as partners in your child's education, and know that together we can make a lasting impact. We hope that you will reach out at any time if you have questions, concerns, or would like to let us know something that would help us understand or connect with your child.

Ms. Moreland will be your child's homeroom (morning), math and science teacher for the year. Students will be with Ms. LaVenture in the afternoon, working on literacy and social studies.

If you'd like to learn more about all the other teachers your child will work with next year, please check out the Cory website for their biographies! We all look forward to seeing you in the fall for the Back-to-School events, including a Meet-The-Teacher opportunity - date tbd! These events will be posted on the Cory website and communicated through the Cory Parent Post.

Fifth Grade Curriculum:

- **Literacy:** We will work through several different interdisciplinary modules during the year, beginning with a focus on the American Revolution and then moving into an in-depth study of human rights. During this module, students will read and analyze the UN's Declaration of Human Rights, and then draw connections to a historical fiction novel about immigration. In the next module, we will continue to focus on the key ideas of fairness and equality through a close look at how athletes, such as Jackie Robinson, are in a unique position to break barriers and create cultural change. A fun culminating activity is our annual Wax Museum, where each student takes on the persona of an athlete who became a "first" in order to teach others about their legacy!
- **Social Studies:** We will study the exploration, colonization, and founding of the United States, along with basic geography, civics, and personal finance (economics). We will also explore diverse historical sources to form a deeper understanding of the rich and varied cultures and histories of our country's Native American peoples, and to think deeply about how we can honor the cultural heritage of this land.
- **Math:** We will continue to utilize Engage NY math curriculum and supplement as needed. 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.
- **Science:** We will be using the Amplify science curriculum this year. The year begins with a unit of study titled "Waves, Energy and Information". Two of the guiding questions for this unit are: How can a mother dolphin and her calf communicate underwater when they cannot see each other? How can humans use patterns to communicate?

At Home:

- **Reading:** All incoming 5th grade students should be reading chapter-length fiction or nonfiction books, at or above grade level. Let your child choose books that are interesting to them. If they're stumped, there are lots of great reading lists out there to help (here's one: https://www.educationworld.com/summer_reading/4th_grade.shtml). Public librarians are wonderful resources! For non-fiction, Freckle (www.freckle.com) and NewsELA (www.newsela.com) are great tools for students.
- **Writing:** Incoming 5th grade students should be able to capitalize correctly, write in complete sentences and use end punctuation correctly. They should have mastered paragraphs and be able to write multi-paragraph essays. 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. Encourage your child to write about what he or she is reading, write letters to family or friends, keep a journal of summer activities, etc.
- **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÷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.

Other Information:

- **Drinks and Snacks:** Students should bring a reusable plastic or metal water bottle, labeled with their name. No glass, please. Bottles that can close tightly without leaks are preferred. I do not allow juice or other drinks in the classroom, but students may bring those drinks to lunch. Students are encouraged to bring a small, easy-to-eat healthy snack -- we will have a short morning snack break outside.
- **School Hours:** We are shifting school hours by five minutes. Students will line up with their math teacher on the playground at the 8:10 am bell. The tardy bell will ring at 8:15. Past this point, please send your child to the office to get a pass. Students will be dismissed at 3:15.
- **Supplies:** Please ensure that your child brings their backpack with all school supplies on the first day of school. They will bring the materials to their homeroom teacher. Each teacher will decide how to collect and redistribute the materials to ensure that all students have the supplies that they need for a productive and successful year.

We hope you had a wonderful summer, and we look forward to seeing you next week. We know there will be lots of learning and laughter when school begins, and we can't wait to get started!

Sincerely,

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For anyone new to Cory or new to our classroom, let us tell you a little more about who we are:

Ms. Moreland:

This coming school year will be my 6th year teaching, all of which have been right here at Cory! I teach math, science, and character development.

I am a Denver native who loves hiking, volleyball, golf, and really anything outdoors. The majority of my close family lives in California, so I am often visiting the Bay Area.

These past two school years have taught me so much about why I love being in the classroom with kids. Building trusting relationships within the classroom allows us to dive into our learning, take risks and embrace challenges! Much of our learning is done through ongoing and open dialogue and reflection about our thinking.

I am so looking forward to another great year together, and meeting our new teammates!



Ms LaVenture:

I have been teaching for 20 years, and have been at Cory for the last ten. I teach literacy and social studies in the afternoons.

I have two children, both boys. They will be in 7th and 9th grades this year. They are a lot of fun, and they keep me busy! During the summer, I spend a lot of time with them at the pool, riding our bikes, going to the park, camping, and reading. We are at the library almost every week picking out new books! On my own, I enjoy sewing simple clothes and working in my garden. I also love to dance, and I take classes a couple of times a week.

I grew up in Oregon and went to college in Rhode Island, but I have lived in Colorado since 2000. My mom and my sister live here now, too! It's great to have family nearby.

I'm looking forward to working together!

