

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!

My name is Maddie Sherrill and I will be your child's Math and Science teacher next year. This will be my 2nd year at Cory, but my 17th year in the classroom and I am still as excited today as I was 17 years ago to begin a new journey and a new school year with a new group of students. I will provide instruction in Math and Science this year. I believe in providing rigorous, student centered instruction that comes to life with authentic experiences, class discussions, games and unique ways of demonstrating their learning.

My name is Meghan Miller and I will be your child's literacy and social studies teacher this year. This will be my 4th year at Cory, and my 15th year teaching. I am excited to meet this new group of kids, and help them make the most of their 4th grade year. My classroom is rich in reading and writing activities, and students collaborate regularly on classwork and critical thinking projects. My goal is to make my classroom a place where kids feel welcome, safe, challenged in their learning, and an important part of our community.

#### 4th Grade Curriculum

Math: Incoming 4th grade students should be able to fluently:

- multiply single digit numbers
- add and subtract 3-digit numbers using the standard algorithm (vertical)
- calculate area and perimeter using given formulas
- explain fractional part-whole relationship
- identify 3-digit values using place value

\*Zearn, Khan Academy, and Freckle are excellent resources to keep these skills sharp.

- Our first math unit explores place value, rounding and algorithms for addition and

subtraction, with an emphasis on 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 "Energy Conversions: Blackout in Ergstown" In this unit students explore why a fictional town experiences frequent blackout and reasons the electrical system can fail.

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](http://www.newsela.com) - use the free version/no account necessary) at a variety of reading levels.

Our first two literacy units focus on character analysis and multi-paragraph informational writing related to the topics of poetry and animal defenses. Some recommended resources that could be fun at-home reads to prepare for 4th grade curriculum are:

- Pug: And Other Animal Poems by Valerie Worth
- A Writing Kind of Day: Poems for Young Poets by Ralph Fletcher
- You Come Too: A Favorite Poem for Readers of All Ages by Robert Frost
- Animal Characteristics by Sue Barraclough
- The Best Camouflaged Animals by Megan Cooley Peterson

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.

### Math & Science Class Website

I have a class [website](#) for Math and Science that will provide you with up to date information about Math and Science content and will be updated regularly to reflect the learning we are doing in class. My hope is that the website will provide a bridge of communication to help support your young learners. This will be updated throughout the learning so check it frequently to see what we have going on!

### Sherrill Math & Science Parent Volunteers

As kids reach the older grades, the support can look different and I also know that the time and availability that parents have differ, so I offer a couple of volunteer opportunities this year.

- In Class Volunteer - this could be one day a week weekly support during guided math or the occasional support for a learning experience where extra hand our needed.
- Take Home Volunteer - throughout the year, I will need help cutting materials or creating games for guided math. I will generally send the materials home a week before they are needed so that will give you flexibility to help on your own time.

Please fill out this short [form](#) to show your interest and I will reach out separately to those who are able to support our class this year. All interested volunteers will also need to complete the form at the following [link](#). [Volunteer Interest Form](#) [Volunteer District Paperwork](#)

### Miller Literacy and Social Studies Parent Volunteers

I will post volunteer opportunities on Class Dojo as they become available. Thank you for checking the Dojo page to look for opportunities to help out!

### Back to School Night

We are excited to welcome our families for our Back to School Night on Thursday, August 18th from 5:00 - 6:40. See the schedule below for details.

5:00 - 5:30 Principal Welcome on the Auditorium

5:35 - 5:55 Classroom Rotation #1

6:00 - 6:20 Classroom Rotation #2

Pick Up & Drop Off

Bell time for next year 8:20-3:20 BUT, students can enter the building at 8:15

### *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.
- 8:15 is the first bell and 8:20 is the tardy bell. All students who come to school after 8:20 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*

- 3:20 Dismissal - students may not stay and play without an adult present.
- Supervision will end at 3:30 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.

## Important Dates

- Monday, August 22nd - First Day of School
- Wednesday, September 7th - Picture Day
- Wednesday, October 5th - Walk to School with DJ Chuck

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,

Maddie Sherrill & Meghan Miller