WOODLAND PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Columbine Elementary Fifth Grade Handbook

2020-2021

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Welcome to 5th Grade!

In this packet you will find some important information about our upcoming year. Please read through and don't hesitate to contact us with any questions, comments or concerns. We anticipate an amazing year and look forward to working with you to prepare your child for middle school.

Home Connections:

- Each student has a binder with a weekly agenda. They are responsible for writing what they did in each class on the weekly agenda. Parents will have daily information on the concepts covered at school. The folder will come home every Friday and should be signed and returned on the following Monday.
- All graded work will be sent home on Fridays with the agenda.
- Math homework will be given as needed to reinforce math concepts.
- If your child consistently does not finish work during class time, class work may be sent home for completion.

Spelling:

- We will be completing some spelling and grammar review for the first quarter. Students will not have a weekly test but will have an end of unit assessment over the reviewed spelling/grammar rules. Students will be given practice words each week if families would like to practice at home, and a review packet will be sent home prior to the test as well.
- Correct usage of spelling in student writing will also be measured all year.
- We may move to a weekly spelling/grammar test in the future (no earlier than second quarter). Parents and students will be notified well in advance of any changes to spelling test routines.

HOMEWORK

Philosophy:

- Every family desires successful school and life experiences for their children. During the school day, children learn and grow in a rigorous, academic environment. After school, children need time with family and friends, to play, relax, and exercise.
- Much research indicates that traditional homework completion does not greatly impact academic achievement at the elementary level in literacy, science and social studies. Research does indicate that home and school environments provide the following indicators of academic and life success:
    - expansive vocabulary (conversation and reading is a strong predictor of reading/writing success)
    - a wide variety of experiences (background knowledge is a strong predictor of academic success)
    - creativity and problem solving
    - habits of mind and body (physical activity, work habits, character)
    - curiosity

Practice:

- Therefore, we rarely require traditional paper/pencil homework (outside of mathematics). Instead, we passionately encourage families to:
    - READ (aloud as a family, independently, books, magazines, etc)
    - WRITE (thank-you notes, cards, letters, stories, poems, plays)
    - PROBLEM SOLVE (play games, cook, build, measure, count forward & backward, by 2's, 5's, 10's, memorize math facts, occasional skill practice)
    - CREATE (play, draw, paint, dance, put on plays, sing, cook, build, dig)
    - EXPLORE (play in your house, your yard, your town, your state; visit museums, libraries, performances; research your interests)
    - Teachers will communicate current skill work in their bi-weekly newsletters posted on the Columbine website (including spelling, vocabulary, math). Please practice these skills as needed at home.

Occasionally, teachers will ask your child to complete the following:

- mathematics skill practice
- work not finished in class
    - Self motivation and time management are crucial skills to work on in preparation for Middle School. Please note that students will have one Study Hall period a week to work on unfinished classwork in addition to their regular class periods. Work that is still incomplete will be sent home.
- corrections to assignments &/or assessments
- extra practice in an area of need
- optional enrichment
    - Any work completed at home must meet the following expectations: neat handwriting-including math, correct spelling, complete sentences.

Catamount:

- This year Catamount Outdoor Science Education will look different because of COVID-19 restrictions and regulations. In years past, Columbine 5th graders would travel to Catamount Center on Fridays to work collaboratively with classroom teachers, Catamount Center Fellows, and each other. Unfortunately, we will not be able to attend the center in person this year but we will still be working closely with Catamount to provide enriching outdoor education for your 5th graders. Instead of attending Catamount Center in person on Fridays, we have embedded outdoor education time into our daily schedules and will be working closely with the fellows through video instruction that can then be applied to our nature area on Columbine property. Our main goal for this time is to provide exciting, educational learning opportunities to our students in an outdoor setting.
- We plan to continue this time throughout the semester despite weather barriers. Please ensure that your student has warm winter clothing, sturdy footwear, sunscreen, hats, and gloves.
- If you have questions regarding our outdoor education time please do not hesitate to contact the 5th grade team!

Contact Information:

- **Language Arts:** Mrs. Flesher rflesher@wpsdk12.org
- **Math:** Mrs. Weisheipl bweisheipl@wpsdk12.org

- **Science and Social Studies:** Mr. Barrish rbarrish@wpsdk12.org

Odds and Ends:

- Students will have a snack time in the morning. We encourage healthy snacks (no candy or beverages please).
- Please make sure your student has a refillable water bottle with them at school. Our drinking fountains are closed but the refill station is still in operation.
- Birthdays: We will not be allowing students to bring in birthday treats at this time. Instead, we have a selection of activities that we will allow them to choose from (such as pajama or hat day). If this policy changes, we will let families know. In the event that it does change, we will still encourage students to select an activity over a treat.
- If there is any change to the normal pick-up procedure at the end of the day, please notify your homeroom teacher or the office in advance so we can safely account for all students at the end of the day.