

WOODLAND PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Columbine Elementary Fourth Grade Handbook

2023-2024

4A: Mr. Emerson

4B: Ms. Lovins

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Welcome to the 4th 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.

Home Connections:

- Friday Folders will come home every Friday and should return to school on Monday. With few exceptions, we will be sending home all important paperwork and graded school work home on Fridays.
- Our weekly newsletters are sent through Infinite Campus messenger every Friday. Parents are encouraged to read the newsletters for important information and to stay up-to-date on curriculum taught in each content area.
- Math homework may 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.

Math: Eureka

- This will be our 2nd year introducing Eureka math and we are excited to build upon your child's previous math skills. We will utilize Zearn (Eureka online math platform) and Prodigy for the in-class assignments.

Colorado History: Studies Weekly

- Students will study Colorado history using a current weekly newspaper and a supplemental textbook, *The Colorado Story* to gain knowledge and insight into Colorado history.

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 weekly newsletters posted on the Columbine website. Please practice these

skills as needed at home. In addition, quarterly skills are posted by grade level on the Columbine website.

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

- mathematics skill practice
- work not finished in class
- corrections to assignments &/or assessments
- extra practice in an area of need

Contact Info: Mr. Emerson wemerson@wpsdk12.org

Odds and Ends:

- Students will have a snack time in the morning. We encourage healthy snacks (no candy or beverages please).
- We encourage students to bring a water bottle to stay hydrated throughout the day.
- For birthday celebrations, we will be encouraging students to choose an alternative to treats. We have a selection of activities that we will give them. If treats are brought in, we ask that they come in at the beginning of the day to be given out when it will fit in with the homeroom teacher's schedule. Treats must be cut or packaged for individual consumption. It will not be a "party" but a small celebration.
- If there is any change to the normal pick-up procedure at the end of the day, please notify your homeroom teacher and the office in advance so we can safely account for all students at the end of the day.

Capturing Kids Hearts (CKH): is a relationship building approach to discipline that creates self-managing groups. How it works is that teachers use the EXCEL model to communicate with their students. Students create their own rules via a social contract. Students will hold each other accountable using "checks" and "fouls." An environment is created that emphasizes positivity through "good things" and "affirmations."

Mr. Emerson Daily Schedule...

8:00am-8:15am	Attendance, pledge, “good things”
8:15am-8:45am	Math(homeroom)
8:45am-9:30am	4 th grade focus groups
9:30am-10:15am	Specials
10:15am-11:00am	Math (homeroom)
11:00am-11:45am	Lunch/recess
11:45am-1:00pm	Reading/writing (lovins’ room)
1:00pm-1:15pm	Recess
1:15pm-2:00pm	STEM/extra specials
2:00pm-2:45pm	Social studies/science
2:45pm-3:05pm	Social emotional learning/ pack-up