

WOODLAND PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Columbine Elementary Fifth Grade Handbook

2023-2024

5A: Mrs. Weilert

5B: Ms. Dove

Contents

Welcome to 5 th Grade!	2
Home Connections:	2
Spelling:	2
HOMEWORK	3
Philosophy:	3
Practice:	3
Catamount:	4
Contact Information:	5
Odds and Ends:	5



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.

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. Teachers will communicate that with you.

Spelling:

- There will be a spelling tests this year. We'll let you know in our weekly newsletter when this will begin :) Spelling words will also be posted on the newsletter for practice.
- The spelling lists will contain all words from the unit. Ten words will be chosen from the list for the test.
- In addition, there may also be one or more of the following: a dictation sentence using a combination of the above mentioned words, a grammar question, an editing task, a bonus vocabulary word challenge, or a short written response to a grammar or writing question.

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 & spelling practice). 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. In addition, quarterly skills are posted by grade level on the Columbine website.

- o **We will determine if 5th grade students will be given homework in the Second Semester to prepare for Middle School and keep you posted via newsletters.**

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
- optional enrichment
 - o Any work completed at home must meet the following expectations: neat handwriting-including math, correct spelling, complete sentences.

Catamount:

- Every Friday starting September 8th in the first semester we will be leaving for environmental science education at Catamount Center at 9:30 am. If students are arriving after the time that the bus leaves, parents will be asked to drive their student to Catamount. Students leaving early will also need to be picked up from Catamount Center, and arrangements will need to be made in advance to meet at the front gate. Please contact your homeroom teacher in the event that your child will be late or leaving early on a Friday.
- Please consider the following list. Items in bold are required.
 - o **Sack Lunch**
 - **We encourage you to send a lunch on Fridays, particularly if your child has food sensitivities/allergies. Lunches will be available from the lunch room, but we will need to know who will need a recurring sack lunch order for every Friday. All lunchroom lunches will consist of one sandwich, one fruit or vegetable and milk.**
 - o **Water Bottle**
 - o **Appropriate hiking clothing (layers, no dresses) (NO SHORTS IN WINTER MONTHS)**
 - o **Good hiking footwear (no sandals)**
 - o Rain gear
 - o Sunscreen

- Parent volunteers will be invited after the student teachers have had time to become more acclimated to the students, as well as to the many teachers from Columbine and professors from Colorado College who will be observing their instruction.

Contact Information:

- **Language Arts/Writing/Social Studies:** Ms. Dove jdove@wpsdk12.org
- **Math & Science:** Mrs. Weilert aweilert@wpsdk12.org

Odds and Ends:

- Students will have a snack time each day. We encourage healthy snacks (no candy or beverages please - water only).
- 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.
- Field trips: Information will be posted on weekly newsletters for all upcoming field trips throughout the year.