

FOURTH GRADE

Parent Handbook



2024-2025

Dear Parents of Fourth Graders,

Welcome to fourth grade at Meridian Elementary! An exciting year has been planned. Fourth grade is the year for expanding and applying what students have learned up to this point.

Want to talk to your child's teacher?

- Mrs. Hempelmann jody.hempelmann@adams12.org
- Mrs. Mendenhall joanna.k.mendenhall@adams12.org
- Mrs. Schermerhorn jennifer.m.schermerhorn@adams12.org

We are looking forward to an exciting, educational, and successful year with our students!

Fourth Grade Curriculum Overview

Reading: Our 4th grade students will build literacy and language skills by participating in ten cross-disciplinary units of study in our Benchmark Advance program. Units are designed to focus on 2 shorter selections of text as well as 2 longer passages. Students will strengthen reading and writing skills and strategies, participate in meaningful constructive conversations, and make connections to other content areas.



Writing: Fourth graders will write across multiple genres including informational, persuasive/opinion, literary and realistic fiction, and integrate information from two texts to form a written response.

Math: This year we will focus on problem solving and writing clear and cohesive explanations within each math unit. Major concepts include place value, multi-digit multiplication, division, fractions, geometry and multi-step number stories.

Science: Our major units of study include experiments in structure and function of organisms, fossils and rock layers, Earth's changing surface and resources, and energy.

Social Studies: We will study various groups of people who have impacted Colorado from indigenous peoples to homesteaders. Other units of study will focus on the Colorado state government, investigating modern Colorado issues, and financial literacy.

4th Grade Homework Information

Please review this homework policy for fourth grade with your child so that you both understand the expectations for students and parents in regards to homework. This should help increase learning and decrease tensions that are sometimes associated with homework. Fourth graders are expected to do 30-45 minutes of homework every night. Remember, all homework that is assigned and when it is due can be found in your child's planner.

Reading: 30 minutes should be devoted to reading each night. Please encourage your child to become a lifelong reader. Some great ways to do this is to have a screen free zone, cozy reading areas, and access to a variety of topics and genres that are of interest to your child!

Math: Most days your child will receive a home link to complete at the end of each math lesson. We will provide a packet of home links for each unit, but if the packet gets misplaced you can print another copy from our 4th grade page on the school website.

Classroom Basics

Planners and Homework Folders: Fourth graders will be responsible for copying the daily learning down each morning and will highlight what is homework. At the beginning of the year, you can expect that their teacher will spot check planners to ensure they are filled out correctly but this is part of the student's responsibility. Please take a few minutes each day to review your child's day and initial the planner. This is a great way to connect with your child about their day.

Parent Volunteers: There are many opportunities to volunteer in our classroom throughout the year. A schedule for volunteers will be developed after our classroom routines are established. There will also be a few times throughout the year that chaperones will be needed for field trips or help with class parties. Please fill out the volunteer section of the Get to Know Your Child form and we will contact you.

Daily Snack - Please send a snack for your child to eat each morning around 9:30. This should be completely nut-free and a healthy food to fuel your child's brain (ex. fruit, veggies, cheese/crackers, yogurt etc.)





Birthdays: We would love to celebrate your child's birthday (even summer ones)! Due to many children with dietary restrictions and allergies, there are 3 non-food options that your child can choose from. Extra Recess - Art for Kids Hub drawing - Class Game

4th Grade Grading Policy

We have high expectations and aspirations for our students. Not all assignments will be given a score but are used to informally assess the student's progress, and give meaningful feedback. We assess a child's progress based on a body of evidence which includes both formal and informal assessment opportunities. ***It is critical that students complete all work to the best of their ability so that the work accurately communicates what the student knows and is able to do.*** In a group study, students gain invaluable skills working and thinking together. Students, however, will always be held accountable only for their individual part in group projects and will be given the opportunity to evaluate the group's cooperative skills.

Standard-Based Scoring Descriptors:

STANDARDS-BASED LEARNING PROGRESSION

1	2	3 (Target)	4
Developing Proficiency: Student demonstrates progress toward initial foundational skills of the topic.	Approaching Grade Level Standards: Student demonstrates proficiency on foundational skills of the topic.	Meets Grade Level Standards: Student demonstrates proficiency on all grade level skills of the topic.	Exceeds Grade Level Standards: Student demonstrates understanding and performance beyond proficiency and has exceeded the standard.
			

Scholarly Habits:

A set of guiding principles that support our learning and interactions with each other inside and outside of the classroom.

	4 Exceeds Expectation	3 Meets Expectation	2 Partially Meets Expectation	1 Does Not Meet Expectation
<u>Respect:</u> Scholars value their work, their interactions with others, and who they are as a person.	Always on task and often one of the first to participate. Sought after by peers as a positive leader.	On-task Works well with peers. Follow directions.	On-task with reminders. Works well with peers with some guidance. Follows directions when prompted by teacher or peers.	Often distracted or off-task. Often distracting others. Difficulty working with others in a group. Struggles to follow directions.
<u>Preparation:</u> Scholars are prepared and ready with all the necessary tools for learning.	Takes extra steps to ensure preparedness.	Completes homework. Comes to class prepared.	Completes most of the homework. Occasionally unprepared for class.	Many missing assignments. Often unprepared for class.
<u>Risk Taking:</u> Scholars take intellectual risks and think outside the box.	Looks for ways to challenge self to try several new techniques and strategies for reading, writing and learning.	Tries out many new techniques and strategies for reading, writing and learning that are presented in class.	Tries out a few new techniques and strategies for reading, writing and learning that are presented in class.	Does not attempt new techniques and/or strategies presented in class.
<u>Perseverance:</u> Scholars don't give up. They keep going, even when the work is hard.	Thrives when challenged & seeks opportunities for challenges within content instruction and work.	Shows initiative and stamina when engaging with content instruction and work.	Able to engage with content instructional and work when prompted and with guidance.	Struggles with the demands to engage in content instruction and work.
<u>Excellence:</u> Scholars take pride in their work and seek to achieve excellence.	Takes initiative to ensure that the quality of their work demonstrates their achieved mastery of the content.	Quality of work shows understanding of the content as well as pride in learning.	Quality of work shows limited understanding of the content and/or pride in learning.	Quality of work shows minimal understanding of the content and/or pride in learning.

We are so excited about the upcoming year with your child!!