



Welcome to 4th Grade!



Welcome back to school. I'm excited to begin a new year and know this is going to be a fantastic year in fourth grade. Here is a brief overview of subjects we plan to cover this year, along with some additional information that I hope will be helpful to you and your student.

- READING:** This year we will be studying a variety of basic reading skills to improve fluency, comprehension and vocabulary. Fourth grade students are encouraged to read aloud or silently at least 20 minutes each night. Home reading should be recorded in the "Road to Success" folder and returned every Monday. Students are encouraged to read from a variety of genres. A different genre will be emphasized each month and students are invited to participate in the "passport" program in our school library. Keep in mind the best way to become a better reader is to **READ! READ! READ!**
- SPELLING:** We will be using a spelling program that teaches spelling through understanding morphographs which are prefixes, suffixes, bases and roots of words. Because units vary in length, spelling test days will also vary. Test dates will be announced a few days in advance, but students should be studying unit words as part of their daily homework in order to be prepared for tests.
- MATH:** Because we will be learning new and challenging math concepts in fourth grade, it is critical that your student knows the basic multiplication and division facts. Please reinforce these at home. Any extra time you can spend with tough concepts as we come to them throughout the year (long division, fractions, decimals, measurement, money, etc.) will be very beneficial.
- WRITING:** Students will be learning and participating in the writing process: brain-storming, drafting, revising, editing and publishing their writing. They will also be working with a variety of writing formats throughout the year including letters, poetry, creative writing and persuasive essays.
- SCIENCE:** Rotations to other fourth grade teachers will take place at four-week intervals. Fourth graders will be studying Utah plants and animals, the water cycle, land formations, fossils and rocks and minerals.
- UTAH HISTORY:** Our social studies text is *The Utah Adventure*. We will be learning about Utah while studying its geography, native indians, mountain men, explorers, pioneers and counties. We will do many hands-on activities throughout the year. Each student will be assigned to share a short presentation on a Utah county later in the year. More details will be coming about this assignment.
- MUSIC & PE:** Music, P.E. and visiting the library will be on a rotating basis and will be taught by our school specialists in each area.

ATTENDANCE: School hours are from 8:20 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8:20 to 1:10 on Fridays. Please do everything you can to help your child be on time each day. When it's necessary for your child to be absent, your assistance in helping them to make-up the work they missed would be greatly appreciated.

RECESS: It is important for children to get fresh air and plenty of exercise, as well as a break from the classroom. Therefore, it is the fourth grade policy that students are outside at recess time unless you send a note requesting otherwise.

END-OF-THE-MONTH FOLDERS & PORTFOLIOS: At the end of each month, students will bring home a special folder containing the assignment, tests and projects completed during that month. Please look through the folder with your child and return the items that you would like placed in a portfolio your child will receive at the end of the year.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS: We will celebrate each child's birthday (or half birthday as necessary). If your child's birthday (or half birthday) falls on a day we are not in school, we will determine a day close to the actual date to celebrate. If you desire to send a treat that day (although not required), the last few minutes of the day usually is best.

COMMUNICATION: I will send an email update approximately every two weeks to keep you informed of the things we are doing in our class. If you don't have an email address, I will send a "hard copy" home with your child. If you need to get in touch with me, feel free to contact me by email (melindah@provo.edu) or by phone at the school (801-374-4990). Your insight and suggestions are welcome any time.

Thanks for allowing me the privilege of working with your child this year. I'm looking forward to a fun and successful year!

Sincerely,
Melinda Hafen