Dear Families, Fall 2020

Welcome to a wonderful year of watching your child learn and grow. I am excited to have the opportunity to assist you in teaching your child. My goal as a teacher is to share my love of learning with your child to help them become confident, capable, and happy students who are excited about school and discovering the world.

ATTENDANCE: The first school bell rings at 8:35, and the tardy bell rings at 8:40. Please have your child here on time. Fourth graders need to walk around the building and line up on the West side of the school with their class. If your child is absent, either call the office to let them know the reason for the absence or send a note the following day. To check your child out from school, please go to the office first, and they will let me know through the intercom, that your child will be leaving. You will need to sign a check-in/out form in the office before they can home during school hours.

READING HOMEWORK: READ! READ! READ! I will be sending home a reading calendar at the beginning of each month. If you feel that your child needs an additional challenge, workbooks or other activities can be found on the internet, my webpage, or local education stores. Students can read their library books or other books every night. Return the calendar, and please Don't forget to sign the reading log or the monthly calendar.

SUPPLIES: At the beginning of the school year, I happily provide pencils, scissors, a box of crayons, glue sticks, a set of colored pencils, and large erasers. As the year goes on, we can always use donations. With recent budget cuts, it would help our class if **you can donate some supplies** for our entire classroom. Please see the attached **supply list** for suggested ideas. If you have purchased additional supplies for your child, other than the ones that are on the donation list, please use them at home for homework or other projects.

BACKPACKS: If your child bringing a bag to school, <u>please make sure it is empty</u>. **(NO backpacks with wheels - they do not fit in the Lockers)** lockers are too small in our schools PLEASE no valuables. Please do not allow your child to bring toys, makeup, cell phones, food, or drinks that might have the potential to spill or allergic reaction to other students. I would rather not have students bring other personal school supplies that might get stolen or lost. <u>If your daycare has Show-and-Tell</u> or students need to carry their blankets and pillows, please make other arrangements with them. There will be days your child will take home completed work such as papers, books, class notes, etc. Please take this opportunity to discuss with your child what they have learned.

GRADES: There will be two SEP conferences for each student. Report cards will be sent home three times during the year. I will be using Proficiency-Based Grading (PBG) to determine your grade. I will be using different types of assessments: Example: observations, application of knowledge, discussions, participation, rubrics, projects, communication, creative expression, inquiry, integrative thinking, problem-solving reading, writing, and self-directed.

Grades are as follows: (4–Above Proficient), (3–Proficient), (2–Approaching Proficient), (1–Below Proficient), these grades are intended to communicate progress towards mastery of articulated course content standards to students and parents. PBG is an indicator of what a student knows and can do concerning course objectives that I have explicitly taught. They encourage the student to act on feedback and to help me adjust and individualize instruction.

LIBRARY: Our library day will be every Friday. Students will be able to check out two books every week this year. (students have the option to take books home or leave them in class) (students who lose their books must pay the cost of the book) – IF ALL students bring their books each week every Friday, I will provide a small reward as an incentive to return their books.

LUNCH: Students may bring lunch from home. All food must be carried inside a bag (lunch-bag). The District will not be sending home lunch calendars this year. You may access the lunch menus, and other lunch related questions, on the district website as outlined in your packet. Lunch is at 12:10.

REQUESTS FOR INDOOR RECESS: Please send a medical note requesting that your child stay indoors due to an illness or disability. All the students must go outside.

BIRTHDAYS: You are welcome to send a birthday treat to school with your child. It must be a store-bought item for **29 students**. Non-food items are a great idea. You are welcome to drop it off or come at the end of the school day, around 2:55. It will give the class and the birthday students 20 minutes to celebrate their birthdays. Please let me know what will work best for you. Birthday cards will be made for summer birthdays as follows: June in December, July in January, and early August in February. Give party invitations outside the cumpus.

CLASS DOJO: I will be using Class Dojo to track behavior. You may access it 24/7 once I connect you via your email address or cell phone number. You can send messages to me as well. I also like to use this system to send you pictures of your child, update of academics, and school activities.

Special Days	Monday: PE (Your child needs suitable shoes/clothes to exercise) (No flipflops or open-toed shoes of any kind) Tuesday: Wed. Fri. Math Daily 3 Thursday: Art Friday: Library		
Donations	Tissues	Pink erasers	Healthy snack for 28 students
	Pencil top erasers	Clorox Wipes	Small prizes for class store
	Black dry erase markers	Hand sanitizer	Ziplock bags (snack, quart, or gallon sizes)
	Glue sticks	# 2 pencils	Plastic cups and utensils
	Paper plates	Napkins	Lots of Band-Aids
RULES	School Rules and Class Rules		
	Follow direction		
	Be on task		
	Кеер КУНГООТУ		
	Communicate positively		

CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS: The best times to make an appointment is before school or after school until 3:45 p.m. Mon., Wed., and Thur., If you have any questions or concerns, I will be happy to meet with you then. Please call the office, and I will get back with you as soon as possible, and we'll work out a time that fits both of our schedules. icjensen@graniteschools.org.

It's going to be a great year!

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