

WOODLAND PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Columbine Elementary Fifth Grade Handbook

2017-2018

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5B, Mrs. Barnaby

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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 and look forward to working with you to prepare your child for middle school.

Home Connections:

- Each student has a binder with a weekly agenda. They are responsible for writing what they did in each class on the weekly agenda. Parents will have daily information on the concepts covered at school. The folder will come home every Friday and should be signed and returned on the following Monday.
- The quarterly concepts for each grade level are posted on the website. The bi-monthly newsletters (second and last week of every month) will be posted there as well.
- All graded work will be sent home on Fridays with the agenda.
- Math homework will 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.

Spelling:

- There will be a weekly spelling/grammar test.
- The spelling lists will contain all words from the unit. Ten words will be chosen from the list for the test. There will be bonus challenge words each week, including vocabulary from our reading and Catamount.
- There will 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 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). 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.

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

Second Semester Homework:

- With an eye toward preparing our students for the expectations in middle school, we will have weekly homework assignments after Christmas Break. Homework will be sent home on Fridays and be due the following Friday. Whenever possible, homework will be posted on the website.

Catamount:

- Every Friday in the first semester we will be leaving for environmental science education at Catamount Center at 9:00 am. Please consider the following list. Items in bold are required.
 - **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 reoccurring sack lunch order for every Friday. All lunchroom lunches will consist of one sandwich, one fruit or vegetable and milk.**
 - **Water Bottle**
 - **Appropriate hiking clothing (layers, no dresses)**
 - **Good hiking footwear (no sandals)**
 - Rain gear
 - Sunscreen
- Parent volunteers will be welcome and appreciated in the future. We will not be taking volunteers for the first few weeks so that we have time to build the Catamount learning community. Parents will need to provide their own transportation to Catamount and are encouraged to form a carpool or caravan to follow the bus.
- There is a sheet in the packet that has a short bio on each of the Catamount Center Fellows who will be teaching at Catamount and observing at Columbine one day a week.

Contact Information:

- **Language Arts:** Mrs. Flesher rflesher@wpsdk12.org
- **Math:** Mrs. Barnaby ebarnaby@wpsdk12.org
- **Science and Social Studies:** Ms. Singer <mailto:esinger@wpsdk12.org>

Odds and Ends:

- Students will have a snack time in the afternoon. 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 or the office in advance so we can safely account for all students at the end of the day.
- Field trips: We will be going to Pikes Peak this quarter after our science unit is completed. We will also attend the symphony once in the spring.