



4th Grade

Highland Elementary

August 2014

Dear student and parent/guardian,

Welcome to the 2013-2014 school year. My name is JaNeece Strock and I will be your 4th grade teacher. I will be teaching reading, writing, language arts, math, science, and social studies. I am delighted to have you in my class this year. I'm looking forward to a very successful year, and I'm sure you are too. I have high expectations for each of you, and I will do all that I can to help you succeed.

In order to have a successful year, there are a few things you need to know. I expect all of you to put forth your best effort. Some of the material will be challenging this year. If you would like some additional help, please speak to me and we can arrange something. I expect all assignments to be completed, even though I know that everyone does not work at the same pace. Some students will need to put in more time than others. However, I know that you will all be able to complete these assignments, as they should not require extensive hours of homework. If you feel overwhelmed by the time requirement, please come and talk to me. Parents, you can be a big help to your children if you can remind them to complete their assignments.

In order for us to maximize learning while at school, here are a few basic rules that all students are expected to follow:

1. All weekly assignments (spelling and grammar units, homework, and tests) are turned in on Friday. Students are provided with a binder that stays in the classroom and stores all work until it is time to be turned in. On Friday, the work is collected in a packet and turned in; I will grade the packet and return it the following Thursday. Each Thursday, your student will take home a packet of graded assignments that includes instructions for any missing, incomplete, or unsatisfactory assignments from the previous week. Please watch for this packet (ask your child for it!) as it will tell you what work needs to be made up or completed. Your student will need to hand in any corrected assignments by the next day to attend Fast Finisher Friday.
2. Late work may be handed in. Unless it is an extreme circumstance, it will be given a penalty of 10% each class day. Thus, after four days of class, the assignment will receive a failing grade.
3. Within each six-week period, the lowest assignment grade will not be counted.

Letter grades are as follows:

- 93-100% = A
- 83-86% = B
- 73-76% = C
- 90-92% = A-
- 80-82% = B-
- 65-72% = C-
- 87-89% = B+
- 77-79% = C+
- 64 and below = NI

Most projects that I assign throughout the year will need to be completed at home. Parents, your support with these projects will help to instill good study habits that will last a lifetime.

Since all tests are taken and all work for the week is handed in on Friday, please make attendance a priority on that day. It is the responsibility of the student to ask for missed work due to absence.

Homework will be assigned Monday through Thursday. The primary purpose of homework is to review and practice concepts learned in class. As outlined by the district, daily homework for fourth graders should take 40 minutes. This includes: 20 minutes of reading, 10 minutes to study spelling or vocabulary, and 10 minutes to finish the daily homework assignment (usually math). However, you may alter your student's homework to fit their needs and strengths (for example, some students may need only a few minutes a week for spelling and can spend more time reading).

Parents, I want you to know that one of my most important goals is to keep the line of communication open with you. I will be reached most easily through my e-mail at jstroock@alpinedistrict.org. Do not hesitate to call me at the school (610-8710) between 7:30 and 8:00 and between 3:30 and 4:00. Many questions can be answered by visiting our class website at mrsstroock.weebly.com, thanks!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Strock

Discipline Policy

In order to ensure all the students in my classroom have the excellent learning climate they deserve, I am utilizing the following Discipline Plan.

I believe all students can behave appropriately in my classroom. My top priority is to ensure that no student is interfering with another student's opportunity to learn.

Classroom Rules:

1. Raise your hand to share ideas, ask questions, and answer questions
2. Follow directions the first time.
3. Walk while in the school.
4. Be where you should be.
5. Respect the rights, feelings, and property of others.

I reinforce appropriate behavior in a variety of ways, such as:

1. Verbal praise
2. Positive notes home
3. Positive call home
4. Class rewards
5. Team rewards
6. Individual rewards

If a student chooses to break a rule:

1. The student will receive a verbal warning.
2. The student will be asked to see me after class so we can discuss the problem and form any necessary plans to help change to appropriate behavior.
3. The student will receive a phone call or e-mail home to parents to let them know about the problem.
4. Further consequences will be discussed as appropriate.

Thank you for reading through this document. I know that if you follow these rules we will have a successful year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Strock

Please return with your student tomorrow

I have read the student/parent letter and discipline policy for Mrs. Strock's class

Student _____

Date _____

Parent _____

Date _____