

Hello 4th grade families!

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year. I am so excited to be your child's teacher this year. I know this is not how any of us were hoping to start the new school year. I, too, wanted to start as normal, but I am determined to make the best of the situation given to us! Even though we will begin the year online, I am looking at this as an opportunity for all of us to grow emotionally and intellectually while learning how to use some awesome online resources along the way! Until we return, I want to make sure that we all have the best outcome possible for learning virtually together.

Below I have included a "Q&A" with some questions I hope to answer for you. I have also included some action items for you to complete these upcoming weeks. In order to provide the best start, there are a few steps I would like you and your child to complete prior to the first day of school; This may include logging into various resources so your child is set up, filling out some online paper work that I will need this year, and learning how my classroom will be run (both online and in person).

Trust me when I say I understand how overwhelming this time is, but please know that I am committed to your family and I am here for anything you may need. There will be a lot of information in this email, but I am hopeful this will be one document you can refer to with any questions or reminders this year. I will also be posting this on my website for reference.

Paperwork

Please go to our class Google Classroom and complete and read the Beginning of School Year Information and Forms. Please fill out and read this paperwork prior to the first day of school, Monday, August 17th. It is very important I have this information from you so I can ensure I can communicate with you!

Class Dojo

This year, I will be using Class Dojo for behavior management. Class Dojo is a behavior management system that focuses on positive behaviors and skills. Students will receive positive points for skills such as being on task, supporting a peer, following directions quickly, and many others. We will

decide on what these points will be as a class on the first day of school. Your child may also lose points for being off task, not being prepared, disrespect, and other actions we want to discourage.

For every 25 points earned on Class Dojo, your child will have the opportunity to choose from a variety of reward coupons such as pajama day, hat day, show and tell, no homework for the night, each lunch with the teacher, and many other options.

Once I have added your child's name to my class on Class Dojo, you will receive a parent invite for you to connect to your child. This will allow you to see all positive and negative points as well as what they were for. There is a messaging system on here as well, however I do not check it often. If you ever have any questions for me, the best way to reach me is via email at mschmalstieg@kyrene.org.

Supply List for Online Learning

When we end up back at school, there will be some additional supplies I will ask for, but here is the list of recommended supplies for distance learning:

- 3 spiral-bound notebooks (3 different colors, labeled "math", "reading", and "science/social studies")
- 1 composition notebook (any color, labeled "writing")
- Pencils
- Colored pen
- 4 colored highlighters (1 green, 1 yellow, 1 pink, 1 blue)
- 1 pack of colored pencils
- Earphones or earbuds with a microphone
- Dry erase board (a plain piece of paper in a sheet protector works as well)
- Black Expo marker
- Whiteboard Eraser
- Timer(optional)
- Computer mouse (optional)
- Planner (optional)

Communication

My primary mode of communication is email. It is always the best way to reach me. I strive to respond to emails as quickly as possible. However, you can call my school phone number and leave a message which will be sent to me via email (480)541-4529.

I will send a weekly newsletter by email every Friday with important information you will need for the upcoming week(s). This is the place to be “in the know” about upcoming assignments, due dates, and events.

This year, I am going to post lots of information on my class website. This can be found on the Kyrene Monte Vista webpage. I will include links to my weekly newsletters, links to helpful resources, and all homework assignments. Please check here if you need any of these resources.

Math

In 4th grade, some students will be placed in what is called Compact 4/5a Math. Compact Math is an accelerated class which covers all of the 4th grade math curriculum, as well as the first half of 5th grade math. Students who are not in Compact will receive the standard 4th grade math curriculum. Student selection is based on test scores and teacher recommendations from 3rd grade. Information about your child’s math teacher should be visible in Synergy, though not all students will have a math teacher who is different from their homeroom teacher. Those who do will also be receiving an introduction email from their math teacher before August 17th.

Q&A

What is Google Classroom?

- As many of you are familiar with last year, Google Classroom is your child’s digital link to learning. This is the platform that will house all your child’s assignments, homework, grades (also on Parent Vue), and reference materials. Your child will use the new username and password you personally created. If you have not done so yet, please review the

technology email that was sent out on Wednesday, August 5th titled "Kyrene Student Password Setup/Reset Instructions". If you need assistance with this, please do not hesitate to reach out (the earlier, the better!).

In order to access our Google Classroom, please view the PowerPoint below.

[Parent's Guide to Google Classroom](#)

Is there a schedule you will be following every day?

- Yes! We will follow this schedule closely. Breaks may be changed depending on instruction, but I will try and give students a break to stretch, go to the bathroom, etc. throughout the day. Please see the attached link for the complete schedule (also found on my website).

[Distance Learning Schedule](#)

What are the online learning expectations?

- In the link below you will find a list of most of the classroom expectations we will use while doing virtual learning. Please review them with your child prior to the first day of school to ensure everyone is on the same page.

[Distance Learning Expectations](#)

What apps/websites will my child need to have access to for distance learning?

- The majority of assignments and resources needed for distance learning will be housed in [Google Classroom](#). Please login to Google Classroom prior to the first day of school to ensure you have access. If you do not have access, please email me ASAP so I can help troubleshoot. If there are additional passwords needed, I will provide them at the end of this document.

You will also need access to a program called "Zoom". Many of you used this last year to access online learning meetings with your child's teacher. All Zoom links needed for the week will be posted in Google Classroom. We will use the same links each day as much as possible. If you cannot access the Zoom link, email me ASAP and I will help! 😊

Will there be homework outside of class? How long will that take?

- Yes, there will be homework outside of class. Typically, homework will consist of finishing any work from the school day as well as practicing multiplication facts for 10 minutes per night (by flash cards, worksheet, Xtra Math, etc.) and reading a chapter book for 30 minutes per night.

There will also be a monthly homework menu given. Your child will complete a variety of different task choices to total 100 points. They may pick and choose which assignments to complete as long as they add up to 100 points in value (some assignments are valued at 10 points, 15 points, and 25 points). Assignments on the monthly homework menu may consist of math, reading, writing, or science. You can choose to do these assignments at any part during the month, however all homework choice menus with the accompanying work will be due by the last Friday of the month.

How will students turn in assignments?

- Students will turn in assignments through Google Classroom. Your child will be able to see their assignments each week on Google Classroom (assignments will be labeled with the date of the assignment). I will be able to see who has turned in the assignment and who has not. The assignments will need to be completed during the school day. We will also use Readworks, Flipgrid, and other programs to turn in separate assignments that are not compatible with Google Classroom (passwords listed below).

How will you be grading?

- I will try my best to give feedback on all assignments that are turned in through Google Classroom, Readworks, Flipgrid, and any other programs we use this year. Some assignments will be strictly for practice while others will be for a grade. You should see a grade attached to all assignments that were collected for grading once I view them. Feedback will be provided even for practice assignments.

There are two places to see grades- Google Classroom and Parent Vue through Synergy. Starting in 4th grade, students receive letter grades (A-F) rather than the Proficiency scale for each standard covered during the quarter:

A- 90%-100%

B- 80%-89%

C- 70%-79%

D- 60%-69%

F- 59% and below

While grades for assignments completed through Google Classroom will show up in the program, the best place to view your child's grades are in Parent Vue.

How will classes work online? Will they be with you all day?

- There will be two different times to our school day: synchronous and asynchronous. There will be parts of the day where I will be teaching the lesson, face-to-face via Zoom, and other parts will be individual work time or group work time where students will leave Zoom and will report back at a given time.

What do I do if my child becomes ill?

- Your child does not need to come to the online class. Any missed lessons can be made up at a later time via online videos. They can complete the assignments when they are able and are feeling better. Everyone's

health comes first! If your child misses an assignment, please email me for more guidance. Please email me letting me know if your child will be gone so I can prepare any work they may need. 😊

Do I need to sit with my child while they work?

- Your child is going to be in school from 7:30am-1:30pm. You do not have to sit next to your child just as you wouldn't need to at school. You can get him or her set up on the Zoom meeting and Google Classroom in the morning, but then I can take it from there. Just make sure that your child has a quiet place to work, free from any distractions. 😊

What will video calls and screen share look like?

- I will be sending out a recurring calendar invite for Zoom sessions that the students will be able to access in Google Classroom. Your child will click on the Zoom link to join the class (they may be asked to enter the associated password) and will be placed in a waiting room. I will click to admit them to the call as I see they are waiting. Your child will join the video chat and put their microphone on mute. I will be showing the students on the first day how to use the functions of Zoom and how to use the chat device while we are videoing. There may be times I will be screen sharing to show how your child will access various assignments and websites. During Zoom calls your child will be on camera. If you are uncomfortable with this, please email me ASAP.

If your child wants to video chat with questions during asynchronous work time, they can always turn their microphone and camera on and reach me via Zoom for additional support.

What resources will the school provide for my child to use?

- All students will need to pick up curriculum materials to use during the school day. These include but are not limited to: CKLA workbooks, CKLA readers, Ready Math workbook. Any additional resources we will be using will be provided online.

Your child will need their own laptop or computer to complete schoolwork. If you need a laptop for your child, please see the Monte Vista email regarding laptop pick-up.

What happens next?

- Unfortunately, no one knows what the future looks like, but the most important thing is that we are getting our brains working again. We must keep on, keeping on! I am so happy that we will be able to work together, learn together, have a routine, and schedule again.

Resources with Separate Passwords:

Flipgrid: *coming soon!*

Readworks:

1. Go to www.readworks.org/student
2. Enter class code **YGQEGJ**
3. Default password is 1234

Read Theory

Use the following link to access my class. Once they are registered, they'll need to complete a 20 minute pretest so the program can find the right level texts for their abilities. Your child must complete this independently and in one sitting.

<https://readtheory.org/app/sign-up/create-account?classcode=T2NWEHG6>

Xtra Math

1. Go to www.xtramath.org
2. Click "sign in" at the top right corner
3. Make sure you are under the green "students" tab at the top left of the page
4. Enter my email (mschmalstieg@kyrene.org), Your child's first name, and their pin. I will provide your child's pin in a separate email.

Freckle

1. Go to www.student.freckle.com
2. Enter the class code: 32rvgv
3. Enter your child's first and last name
4. Select the character your child would like to use
5. Begin the fun!



Parents, I appreciate you. Without you, none of this could happen. I know that this is a slow-moving process, with many questions. It is a stressful time, but I want you all to know I am dedicated to your child's education this year, no matter what form we use! Thank you for all you do and thank you for your support.

Please let me know if you have any questions as we begin this new adventure. I am always available via email at mschmalstieg@kyrene.org. You can also leave messages at (480)541-4528 and I will return your call as quickly as possible. I look forward to developing our partnership in 4th grade! 😊

Have a great weekend,

Ms. Megan Schmalstieg