



August 19, 2019

Dear Durango Families,

Welcome to a new school year! We are so excited you will be a part of the Durango family this year. Back to School Night is Tuesday, August 13th from 5:00-7:30. Each classroom will have multiple 20 minute sessions that you may attend throughout the night, as well as Ms. Kresta, our principal, will be sharing school-wide information in the gymnasium. Below you will find information on important items that will be helpful throughout the school year. We are looking forward to seeing everyone Tuesday!

Contact Info

The Parent/Teacher partnership is extremely important for your child. Communication is key for success, so please feel free to contact Ms. Kim at any point if you have any questions or concerns. The best way to contact me is through email at kimerick@jeffcoschools.us. I try to check my email at least twice a day and will respond within one business day. If a face to face conversation is more appropriate, please email me to set up a time that works best.

Helping the Class

There are many ways you can volunteer for our class. We need parents to fill Thursday folders, bring in flowers, cut laminate, support children with reading, and chaperone on field trips. To chaperone or volunteer in the class, you must complete the Volunteer Orientation. Please click [here](#) to go directly to the volunteer page of FHM's website for more information. More information about this will be shared during Back to School Night.

Birthday Celebrations

Each child has an opportunity to celebrate their birthday, or half birthday, in the classroom this year. Families are encouraged to attend and share in this special day. **We also ask that you take the time to make a timeline with your child.** Please make sure it is a *timeline*, not a collage or a book, as this is a beginning stage in your child's linear understanding of the passage of time. You may want to consider scrapbook paper, one page per year tied together at the corners to be folded accordion style. This way each year only one page will need to be added. The timeline should include pictures and important/interesting details from each year of their life, beginning with birth. Please bring or send the timeline on the day of your child's celebration.

Treats are no longer allowed here at school. Please understand this is a district-wide mandate, and there can be no exceptions. However, nonfood items may be brought in for the children. *This is a suggestion*, as no families are required to bring in any items as treats. Celebrations will last about 20 minutes. As you can see, celebrating your child's birthday is a big deal in our classroom. It is important for us to honor each child's life and let them know that we are thrilled they were born.

Snack

Snack time will be from 8:30-8:45 am and students are asked to bring in their own snack from home. A healthy snack is most desired, and please also keep in mind that this should be just a snack and should take children no more than fifteen minutes to eat.

Water Bottles

A water bottle in class is also *highly recommended*. Water bottles can come in on Monday and are sent home on Friday to be washed and brought back to school the following Monday. Always a good idea to label your child's water bottle as well!

Homework Policy

Homework folders will be sent home on *Mondays* and need to be returned the following Monday.

- **Spelling** - Spelling lessons are given during reading group time. The words are sent home each week so children can practice the words and rules with their families.
- **Reading Log** - We expect your child to read for a minimum of 15 minutes every night and fill out a Reading Log. There is a quick and easy reading follow up to be completed by the student. Also, there is a parent section for parents to leave a comment each week.
- **Practical Life** - A graph with many different choices to do at home for the month will be sent home. Students will color in two boxes a week.
- **Math** - Practicing math facts throughout each week is highly encouraged. We will send home the math facts your child is working on here at school in each Thursday folder to guide you on which facts to be practicing.

Curriculum Overview

Along with following the children in math and language, this year our cultural studies will focus on Africa and South America. If you or anyone you know has been to one of these continents and has pictures, objects, or experiences you could share with us, please let me know. In science, we will be studying birds, mammals, climate, weather, and scientific method more in depth this year.

General Reminders

- School begins at 8:15. Please have your child at school on time so they can be ready to start their day!

- Please be mindful of and follow car line procedures and understand that we will do the best we can to make it as smooth and efficient as possible.
- Work Plans- Children will be given a weekly work plan to guide their learning and to assist in making appropriate work choices. We don't send work home on a regular basis because we save it for your child's portfolio. Your child will show their portfolio at conferences!
- Great resources for information: the school website, Fox Flash (emailed weekly on Wednesdays), Horizon Line (quarterly), class newsletters sent in Messenger, CSN website and Facebook page, Student/Parent Handbook, and Thursday Folders. Be sure to keep your contact information updated so you receive communications!
- Assessments- Assessments are used to guide our instruction throughout the year. The following assessments will occur this year: MAP, DIBELS, Writing, CMAS (3rds only)
- Toys- No toys in class. Children are able to bring in a Show-n-Share once a week. This is something that is **not** a toy, but can be used to teach or share about with their peers.
- Conferences- Our first round of conferences will be held during the week of October 14th.
- Please make sure all children's belongings are **labeled** (especially coats and lunchboxes) so they can be returned if accidentally left behind on the playground, in the special's rooms, etc.
- **Please take all medicine to the front desk, both prescription and over-the-counter, to be sure you have all necessary paperwork. Be sure prescription medicine has the pharmacy label on the medication, not on the box.**

It is going to be a wonderful year and we are looking forward to working with you and your child!

Kind regards,
Ms. Kim and Ms. Cheryl