

welcome to

FOURTH
GRADE

with

Mrs. Giaconia & Ms. Ottomanelli



Back to School Night
2025 - 2026



Always Check My Class Page For Updates!

(homework, reminders, resources, and more!)

****Please check our Class Dojo DAILY to get
UPDATES and pictures of our class**

****Please message us here for quick
reminders (dismissal, out sick, RSVPs, etc)
and email us anything that is more
involved**



Communication
is key to keep the Home
to School Connection

jgiaconia@jacksonsd.org
dottomanelli@jacksonsd.org

(also in Daily Planner with Online Resources)

Mrs. Jennifer Giaconia

I am thrilled to be with your child in 4th grade this year! This is my eighteenth year of teaching, and my eighth at Elms! Previously, I worked at two different public schools in Bergen County where I taught 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade. Currently I'm co-advisor of the Elms Kindness Club. I have also worked as a Teacher Leader, written math and science curriculum, as well as been a mentor and academic coach to new teachers. I love to be organized, and I hope to pass that along to my students. I expect everyone to have a positive attitude and show respect each day. My husband is a principal and we have a daughter, Emily, who just started Kindergarten. Our family LOVES going to the beach all year round! I'm looking forward to a fantastic year!!



*The Giaconia Family
enjoying their favorite
place!*

Miss. Deanna Ottomanelli

I am extremely excited to help your child learn and grow this school year! This is my second year teaching and my first year teaching at Elms. Previously, I worked at a public school in Robbinsville where I taught a K-2 LLD class. I truly enjoy working hands-on with students and strive to make sure all of my students are successful in the classroom. I have a passion for English Language Arts and enjoy reading stories aloud to children. Outside of school, I am an avid gym-goer, I love to go on nature walks, and I enjoy spending quality time with my family and friends. I am looking forward to having a great school year!



**Spending some
quality time with my
twin brother!**



Volunteers/Donations

****If you are available, please sign up to help for our Holiday Party (on the blue table)**

****We always appreciate any donations!!**

Please check out our Amazon Wish List (scan the QR Code) or take a polka dot with an item



Chromebooks

- Expected to be in class EVERY day with the charger
 - Needs to be fully charged
- Earbuds/headphone need to be kept in school so students always have access to them

If your child's Chromebook isn't working, send it in with the cord so it can be sent to be repaired and a loaner will be issued



Absent/Leaving Early

- Send in a note if leaving early/Still responsible for missed work and homework
- All digital assignments are posted on our Google Classroom daily
- All Homework Assignments are posted on my web page

**Please check and complete if feeling up to it :-)*

****Based on the nature of some lessons and/or assignments, all other missed work will be gone over and made up with teachers upon return**



Walk Through Our Day...

Morning Routine

Math

WIN

Recess

Spelling

Reading

Lunch (11:40-12:10)

Grammar (Tues - Fri.)

Writing

Science/Social Studies

Afternoon Routine



Home Sweet Classroom





Home Sweet Classroom





Home Sweet Classroom





Homework

- Written in Daily Planner AND posted on my web page
- Usually always Math, study Spelling, & Reading (if you are with us for Literacy). Sometimes will also be other subject such as Grammar, Science, or Social Studies
- Planners do not need to be signed BUT are checked each morning. Please communicate with us any questions or concerns you may have about homework

Test Folders = sign cover sheet and return
EVERYTHING



Homework

- ONE Homework Ticket for a full week of completing homework and ONE for it all being handed in on time: Pick 4 students each month for snack/games with the teachers
- Read For a Bead: every completed and SIGNED paper (20 minutes per night) earns a bead on their bracelet. For any extra reading per night a Bonus Star will be earned.
- Teamwork Homework Pass = used on ONE DAY of homework (can't be used for a test)

Literacy: HMH Into Reading & Writing

Students in grades K-5 will be utilizing the HMH Into Reading program to support grade level learning standards in English Language Arts.



The HMH Into Reading program features research-based, explicit instruction with resources to support whole class, small group, and independent student work in the areas of reading and writing.



Students in Grades K-5 have access to the Amira learning platform. This platform assists students with their reading skills, providing targeted support and instant data tracking to target student strengths and areas in need of support.

Research from Top Universities



Literacy: HMH Into Reading & Writing



Students in Grades 2-5 will take the HMH Growth Measure Assessment 3x a year. (Beginning, Middle, and End of Year)

Students in Grade 1 will be taking a Foundational Literacy Growth Assessment 3x a year to identify student performance with reading concepts.

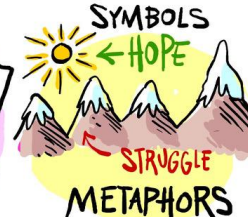
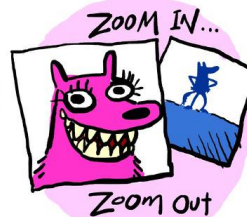
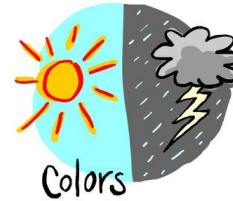
These research-based assessments are just one monitoring tool used to provide educators with overall insights into how their students are performing in their grade level.



the ACCESS LENSES

Thinking about
MOODS
is an excellent way
to access a text.

Artists, Writers & Performers
show **MOODS**
using the following
information...

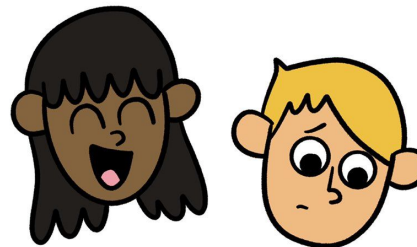
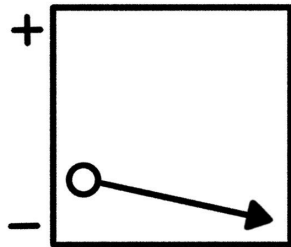
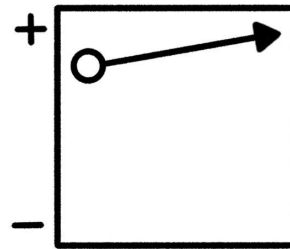
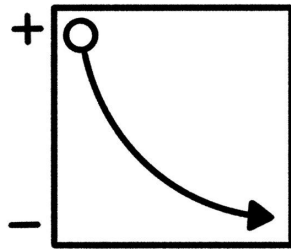
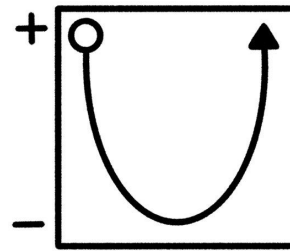
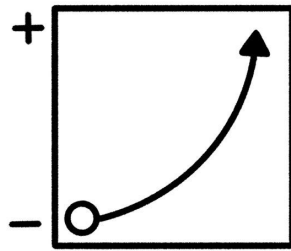


© TREVOR BRYAN © ART BY PETER H. REYNOLDS (NOT A PART OF THE DOT)

Don't forget to make strong connections through moods, lenses and symbols.



MOOD Structures



©Trevor Bryan Art by Jarrett Lerner

JARRETT



Literacy Block

Spelling

- Weekly list on Mondays & tests on Fridays
 - No list on a short week
- Practice done during class in notebook and study/finish any work at home
- Words in Homework Folder and posted in Google Classroom

Grammar

- Notebook to reference skills
 - Whole group practice
- Homework when there is no Spelling



Literacy Block

(continued)

Vocabulary/Reading

- New weekly vocabulary (not tested on)
- Vocabulary words in Homework Folder and posted in Google Classroom to practice
 - writing sentences using context clues

Writing

- Writing process for different genres of writing
- Skills and strategies modeled in mentor texts



Math Topics

Place Value Understanding

Addition and Subtraction

Multiplication and Division

Fractions and Decimals

Interpreting Data

Algebra

Geometry

**Spiral Back to different topics*



What Does Math Look Like?

- Daily Review (from previous lesson and using Math Notebook) *Homework*
- Problem solving strategies
- Mastering multiplication and division Facts

Envision 2020 Math Series

Pearson Realize - work and videos will be posted on my Google Classroom

XtraMath - focusing on speed and accuracy of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts



Science and Social Studies

switches every so many weeks

- Note-taking and research skills
- Occasional projects may be assigned to complete either in class or at home
- Practice working in groups to create projects
 - Notebook grade



Health

Topics will range from, but are not limited to...

Personal Growth/Wellness

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs

Family Life

Community Health Skills

***Character Education and
Social & Emotional Learning***

(Kindness Confetti, Morning Greetings and
Meeting, Brain Break Area)



IXL

- Weekly updated Diagnostic Reports to show areas that need improvement and an overall score for Math ONLY this year
 - Used during W.I.N. and sometimes for Homework
- Teacher Recommended Skills based on Math Topics
 - Smart Score 80 or higher



Classroom Management

- **Class Dojo:** earned for teamwork, participation, helping others, being on task, persistence, and working hard = for every 20 points, students can pick from the Prize Catalog (parents can view points)
- **Brownie Points:** class can earn for good behavior and compliments from other teachers = for every full pan, a class vote for a class prize (ex. PJ Day, popcorn and movie)
- **Teamwork Stickers:** each group can earn stickers for working together. A full sheet earns a Free Homework Pass
- **Wow Beads:** earned for a “wow” action = beads turned in for a certificate
- **We are Sweet:** a lollipop for one student each day for model behavior the entire day



Bonus Stars

For every **5** star stickers = sticker

For every **10** star stickers = prize

- Extra reading (at home)
- Extra math problems for Homework
- Any extra work done at home and placed in the Bonus Bin



Birthdays

- Treats may be sent in to celebrate your child's birthday during lunch
 - A note will go home with your child at the beginning of their birthday month OR at the beginning of their half birthday month (for summer birthdays)
- As per the nurse, nothing homemade and no Dunkin Donuts
 - We have 24 students in our class



Report Cards

- At Elms Elementary School we used a standards based report card
- Instead of receiving one grade for each subject, each subject is broken up into standards. (*List of the the most important skills students should be learning in each subject*)
ex: Math - Operations and Algebraic Thinking (Multiplication and Division),
Fractions, Geometry, Measurements and Data.
- Parents can see exactly which skills their children are expected to learn and how well they are meeting that skills standard



Standards Based Scoring

Progress Indicators: Academic Performance

4 – Exceeds Standards

Indicates the student **consistently surpasses** grade level standards. Performance is characterized by self-motivation and ability to apply these skills with **consistent accuracy, independence**, and high levels of quality and complexity.

3 – Meets Standards

Indicates the student **consistently meets** grade level standards. The student **regularly demonstrates** proficiency in the majority of grade level standards. The student, with **limited errors**, grasps and applies key concepts, processes, and skills for the current grade.

2 – Partially Meets Standards

Indicates the student **occasionally meets** the grade level standards. The student **often needs teacher support** to complete tasks. The student **needs more time and instruction** to develop skills.

1 – Below Standards

Indicates the student is **not yet meeting** grade level standards. The student demonstrates **minimal understanding** of concepts and skills. Performance is **inconsistent with support and interventions**.

NE – Not Evaluated

Indicates the standard was not evaluated.



Standards Based Scoring

Progress Indicators:

Character Development and Work Habit

- 4 - Consistently demonstrates grade level expectation
- 3 - Frequently demonstrates grade level expectations
- 2 - Sometimes demonstrates grade level expectations
- 1 - Infrequently demonstrates grade level expectations

Work Skills	Social Skills
Stays on task and uses time effectively	Displays self-control
Participates in classroom discussions and activities	Observes school and classroom rules
Follows directions	Demonstrates a positive attitude
Completes homework	Respects self, others, and property
Completes class work on time	Interacts appropriately with peers
Demonstrates organizational skills	Works cooperatively in groups
Demonstrates best effort	Accepts responsibility for actions



The Power of ...Yet



We're Your Child's Cheerleaders!

Please share any photos and/or
videos of your child's special
accomplishments out of school!!

(ie. sports, recitals, competitions, etc.)

We LOVE to see all their special talents
outside of the classroom :-)



Don't Forget...

- Write a "Love Note" back to your child
(KEEP on desk)
- Fill out the Friendship List index card
(KEEP on desk)
 - Fill out the PTN Form
(on the blue table)
 - Write a SNAP FACT post-it
(3 adjectives to describe 4th grade)



Thank you for visiting!!

Due to time constraints, please email me with ANY questions you may have and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Let's work together to make this the best year ever for your child!!