

welcome to

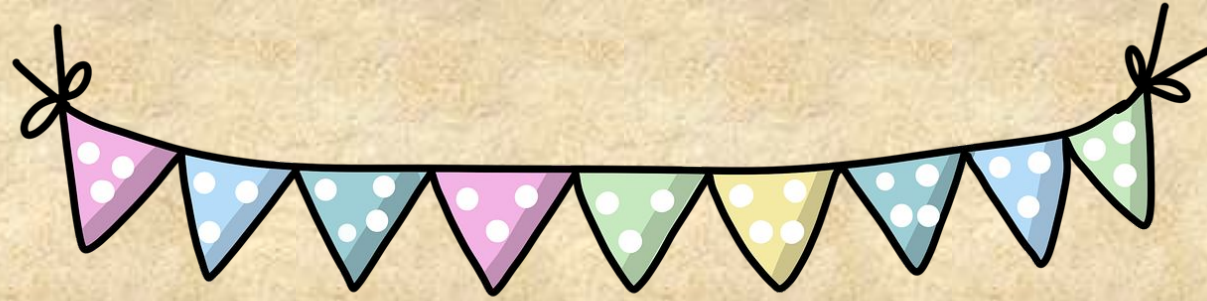
FOURTH  
GRADE

with

Mrs. Giaconia & Mrs. Cooney



Back to School Night  
2023 - 2024



# Always Check My Class Page For Updates!

*(homework, reminders, resources, and more!)*

**\*\*If you have not already done so,  
join Class Dojo to get updates and  
pictures of our amazing class and view  
your child's daily points! :-)**



Communication  
is key to keep the Home  
to School Connection

jgiaconia@jacksonsd.org  
lgcooney@jacksonsd.org



# Mrs. Jennifer Giaconia

I am thrilled to be with your child in 4th grade this year! This is my sixteenth year of teaching, and my sixth at Elms!

Previously, I worked at two different public schools in Bergen County where I taught 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade. I am currently spearheading the Elms Kindness and FireSmart Clubs. 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 towards learning and show respect each day. My husband and I relocated from northern New Jersey and have a daughter, Emily. I'm looking forward to a fantastic year!!



*Mrs. Giaconia with her husband and daughter at their favorite place!*

# Mrs. Lucinda Cooney

## A Little Bit About Me....

I am so fortunate to have the honor of working alongside Mrs. Giaconia this year teaching your children Literacy and Math. I have been in the Jackson School District for 24 years having taught general education and special education at Switlik, Crawford

Rodriguez, and Elms Elementary Schools. I am a former Jackson resident.

Both of my children graduated from JMHS. I am also the grandmother of three adorable grandbabies! I love to travel and golf when time allows, and my family recently celebrated my daughter's wedding. I'm looking forward to getting to know your child better and having a fantastic year!



Big Sur July 2022





# Chromebooks

- Expected to be in class EVERY day with the charger
  - Needs to be fully charged
- Earbuds 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

- 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
  - Special
- WIN/Working Snack\*
  - Recess
- Reader's Workshop
  - Grammar
- Writer's Workshop
  - Lunch (1:00-1:30)
    - Math
- Science/Social Studies
  - Afternoon Routine





# Home Sweet Classroom







# Home Sweet Classroom







# Home Sweet Classroom







# Homework

- Your child will write in their Planner AND posted on my web page
- Usually always Math and Reading Log (if you are with me for Literacy). Sometimes will also be other subject such as Science, Social Studies, or Health
- 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

- Homework Tickets for a full week of HW = Pick 4 students each month for lunch with the teachers
- Reading Log Chart = every turned in log earns a sticker. For every 5 stickers can pick a prize for the basket.
- Homework Pass = used on ONE DAY of homework (can't be used not to study for a test)



# Reader's Workshop

**Unit 1:** The Heart of the Story  
(Interpreting Characters)

**Unit 2:** *Reading the Weather, Reading the World*  
(Conducting Research)

**Unit 3:** *The American Revolution*  
(Reading About History)

**Unit 4:** *Historical Fiction Clubs*  
(Book Clubs)





# What Does Reader's Workshop Look Like?

- Start with a minilesson to model skill or strategy
  - Partner or independent work while teacher conferences

*\*Respond to literature:*

*R (restate), A (answer), C (cite), E (example), S (sum it up)*

*\*Art of Comprehension*

*\*Cross-curricular ties to Social Studies*

*\*Weekly Vocabulary*

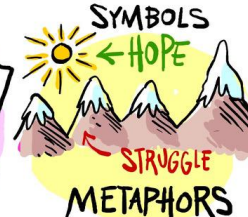
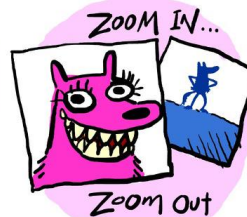
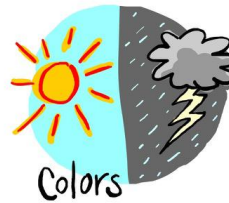
- Wrap up with a share connecting to the minilesson



# 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 MOTHER OF THE DOT)

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



# Writer's Workshop

**Unit 1:** The Arc of Story

(Writing Realistic Fiction - Narratives)

**Unit 2:** *Boxes and Bullets*

(Personal and Persuasive Essays - Opinion)

**Unit 3:** *Bringing History to Life*

(Informational)

**Unit 4:** *The Literary Essay*

(Writing About Fiction)





# What Does Writer's Workshop Look Like?

- On-Demand Writing to begin each Unit
- Start with a minilesson to model skill or strategy
  - Use Mentor Text to support the writing genre
- Independent writing while teacher conferences with students
- Writing checklist and making goals throughout unit
- Go through writing process: **planning/prewriting, drafting, revising (A.R.M.S.), editing (C.O.P.S.), and publishing**
- Some writing will be published handwritten and others on the Chromebook



# Grammar

## *(Patterns of Power)*

- 2 Week Cycle
- Mentor Sentence and Focus Phrase will guide each cycle
- Interactive notebook and activities in comparing and contrasting sentences, creating imitation sentences, using skill to edit given work/in own writing pieces, sorts based on the skill, and finding the skill being used around us



# 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
  - \*Monthly Math Fact Calendars and Daily Math Fact Challenge\*

## 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
- Some topics will go along with our Reading and Writing Units (ex. American Revolution and Extreme Weather)
- 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)





# 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 = prize from the prize basket

- reading over the weekend  
(fill out and resubmit Reading Log)
- extra math problems for Homework
  - writing in own Weekend Journal
- 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 23 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 :-)



# Volunteers/Donations

- If you are available, please sign up to help for either the Holiday Party or End of the Year Party
- We always appreciate any donations of tissues, paper towels, and hand soap to keep us clean and healthy :- ) As well as glue sticks to keep our notebooks up to date





# Don't Forget...

- Write a "Love Note" back to your child  
(KEEP on desk)
- Fill out the Birthday List index card  
(KEEP on desk)
  - Fill out the PTN Form  
(KEEP on desk)
  - 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!!