

Welcome

to 4th Grade with
Ms. Rubino



Briefly About Me

My full name is Laura Marie Rubino and I grew up in Voorhees, NJ, a suburb of Philadelphia. I have over ten years of teaching experience both in the U.S. and abroad. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Masters Degree in Education from Fairleigh Dickinson University. After university, I moved to Arlington, VA outside of Washington D.C. where I taught Grade 4. With a desire to learn about other cultures and travel, I moved to Stavanger, Norway and taught Grade 5 at The International School of Stavanger. After Norway, I moved to South Korea where I was the Technology Integrator for grades K-8 at Korea International School.

The past few years, I have lived back home in New Jersey where I taught in Atlantic City and studied yoga. Last year, I received my 500-hour Yoga Teaching Certification in India and have taught adults and children yoga. Additionally, I have trained teachers on how to implement mindfulness practices into their classroom.

My deepest passion is to teach and to serve the children. Since my family is far away, I hope to make the students and all of COJOWA my family here. I wish to inspire all the children to do their best work and be the greatest people they can be. I am humbled and honored to be apart of the COJOWA community.

Contact Information:

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Class Websites

<http://cojowa4c.mozello.com>

<https://classroom.google.com/c/NjU5NTExNjA4NVpa>

Trimesters		
1	2	3
August 9 - November 18	November 21 - March 10	March 13 - June 14

It is important to remember that teachers and parents must work together in order to provide the best possible education for our children.

Homework

The grade level expectations for homework at COJOWA states that students should have:

- ★ 100 minutes of reading per week
- ★ 120 minutes of homework per week

This means that students will be given approximate 30 minutes of homework per night, in addition to reading. Homework will be graded based on completion.

READING:

- ★ Students may read throughout all 7 days of the week to earn their 100 minutes per week.
- ★ Students are expected to fill out their Weekly Reading Response on Google Classroom each week.

HOMEWORK:

- ★ Students will have homework Monday-Thursday for approximately 30 minutes per night.
- ★ Typical homework:
 - ★ Math
 - ★ Social studies and science homework will be given when needed
 - ★ Studying (for quizzes, tests, math facts, etc.)
 - ★ Specialists may also assign homework

Class Rules

Students are expected to follow our school-wide behavior system: REACHES (Responsibility, Empathy, Assertion, Cooperation, Honesty, Excellence, and Self-Control). In addition, we have a class contract created by the students that aligns with REACHES. We also have specific rewards and consequences in our classroom.

Rewards

Individually, students may work to win REACHES tickets and REACHES bracelets. These are part of our whole school behavior system.

We will also use Class Dojo for positive behavior incentives. You are able to access this at any time and see how your child is behaving at school.

Students will be able to use their Class Dojo points for certain reward passes like wearing a hat in the class for a day, bring your favorite stuffed animal to school, sit in the teacher's desk, etc...

When the whole class reaches a certain amount of points, they will also get a reward.

Consequences

When students are off-task and not displaying REACHES characteristics, they will have consequences. The first consequence is always a warning. The second consequence is filling a reflection sheet. If the behavior improves from then on, I throw the reflection sheet away. If, however, the behavior continues, students will have another consequence AND the reflection sheet will be sent home to you, the parents. Additional consequences include (in no specific order):

1. Loss of technology in the classroom
2. Recess Detention
3. Office Referral
4. Removal from groups/sent to another 4th grade classroom for 15 minutes.

The consequence chosen will depend on the rules that were broken.

Required Resources

Students should bring their technology to school every day, fully charged. If your child is using an iPad, they must have a keyboard accompany it. Additionally, students should always have their website and APP passwords accessible to them at school. We will use technology frequently for academic purposes, so students should be comfortable with whatever device they bring.

4th Grade Curriculum

Reading & Writing

In reading and writing, students will follow the routines of reading and writing workshops, as guided by Lucy Calkins in the Units of Study. This work focuses on reading and writing mini-lessons that teach specific skills to help students as readers and writers, while encouraging their personal interests in book choice and writing topic. Students regularly meet in one-on-one conferences and small groups to discuss their understanding. All students should have personal reading books with them each day in class. Additionally, we will use the DLI (daily language instruction) program to supplement Lucy Calkins with grammatical and language support.

We use Common Core standards for Reading and Writing.

Science & Social Studies

The social studies topics for fourth grade include geography, an understanding of the colonization and exploration of the Americas, and the American Revolution.

In fourth grade science, students are introduced to many hands-on experiments and demonstrations featuring topics such as solar power, natural resource conservation, geology and the formation of the Earth, and the properties of motion and speed. The students also will be preparing for the big science fair held at the end for the school year!

The Science and Social Studies standards are an adapted version of the Colorado State Standards.

Math

This year will be the first year your child will be using the math program "Eureka." This program follows the Common Core Standards precisely and will help develop your child's number sense more thoroughly. However, because it is a new program to our students, there will be an adjustment phase. Eureka teaches math differently than other programs, including the one used at COJOWA previously. To support your understanding and ability to support your child, we will provide parent tip sheets that explain the processes students are expected to use in solving math problems. Students can also reference these parent tip sheets for help at home. These parent tip sheets can be found on our class website.

The website www.zearn.org was created to align with the Eureka curriculum.



The beginning of the year in math picks up and reviews concepts from third grade, including place value, solving multi-step word problems, and adding and subtracting whole numbers. As trimester 1 continues, we will begin to shift our focus to multiplication and division using whole numbers, and solving multi-step word problems featuring this content. Students will begin to work with geometric concepts in trimester 2 identifying angles and shapes. The students will continue to work with complex math topics finally developing fluency working with operations related to fractions and decimals.

We will also focus on developing these skills and practices in math

- ★ Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
- ★ Reason abstractly and quantitatively
- ★ Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
- ★ Model with mathematics
- ★ Use appropriate tools strategically
- ★ Attend to precision
- ★ Look for and make use of structure.
- ★ Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Grading

This year, COJOWA will switch to Standards-Based Grading (SBG). We will no longer use A-F grades or percentages. Each assignment will be graded on a 1-4 scale. Below is COJOWA's new grading scale:



**We will not Average grades; if a student struggled with a concept at the beginning of the term but fully understands it by the end of the term, it is possible for them to receive a 4.

**We will be providing students with rubrics for all projects and assignments; these rubrics will align with the grading scale. Students will be given these rubrics prior to beginning assignments so that they clearly see what is expected of them to earn a 4, 3, 2, or 1.

Report cards will also look a lot different - instead of a grade for each subject, students will receive grades for each "Power Standard." Each Power Standard is a standard deemed essential for moving up to fifth grade and is a standard found in the Common Core Standards (Literacy and Math) or the Colorado State Standards (Science and Social Studies).

In addition to grades on power standards, students will receive grades on REACHES and Homework completion on the following scale:

- ++ Almost Always
- + Usually
- Sometimes

If your child is struggling (receiving 1's and 2's), please contact me; we can arrange a parent-teacher conference to discuss how you can support your child at home and/or arrange for remedial tutoring after school hours.