

Welcome to 4th Grade

"Setting the Stage
for Learning"



Mrs. Crow

Room 12

2013-14

Jefferson Elementary

About Mrs. Crow

Fourth grade is going to be a very exciting and rewarding year for your child and myself! This is my ninth year teaching and my eighth year teaching 4th grade. I truly love teaching 4th grade! This year's theme is "Setting the Stage for Learning". I look forward to preparing your child for upper grade and beyond. I also hope to inspire them to grow in Mind, Body and Spirit as they strive to reach their goals this year. Aside from teaching I am also the advisor for the Spirit Squad here at Jefferson, 4th grade department chair, Secretary for the SSC/ELAC council, BTSA support provider and an assistant track coach.

I'm originally from the east coast and made a cross-country trek with my family after completing 4th grade. I attended Clovis schools from the 5th-12th grades. I decided to stay in Clovis and graduated from Fresno State then earned my teaching credential from National University. It's truly wonderful to be a teacher and parent in Clovis Unified.

Children's success in school is more assured when home and school work together. Communication is an important tool in achieving this goal. If you ever have any questions or concerns, you can reach me 4 different ways. Email is the most effective avenue for me. If you need an additional conference with me, we can arrange one in advance.

4 ways to contact me:

- ✓ My school email address: ChristinaCrow@cusd.com
- ✓ Send in a note with your child.
- ✓ Write in the communication log.
- ✓ Call the school and leave a message for me 327-7000

CLASSROOM WEBSITE ADDRESS:

<http://mrscrow.weebly.com/index.html>

I look forward to an outstanding year with your child!

Sincerely,

Christina Crow



Goals



*The great thing in this world is not so much where we are,
but in what direction we are moving.*

We will be setting classroom and individual goals in room 12 together and strive to meet those goals throughout the entire school year. The following are general goals set for the students in my classroom.

- Become self-reliant by trying hard and never quitting.
- Work cooperatively with others in the classroom and on the playground.
- Always show others respect.
- Build effective communication skills.
- Learn to be a good citizen at Jefferson Elementary.
- Become lifelong readers, mathematicians, scientists and learners.

Our Class Rules

1. Follow directions quickly
2. Raise your hand for permission to speak
3. Raise your hand for permission to get out of your seat
4. Make smart choices (this covers a lot!)
5. Keep your dear teacher happy

Character Counts!

Character is who you are when you think no one else is watching!

Caring: We do and say kind things that let others know we care. We forgive and help others in need.

Respect: We listen when others are talking. We use positive words, no put-downs are acceptable. We always address adults with respect by using eye contact, appropriate tones, and use Mr. or Mrs. When addressing or responding to them.

Trustworthiness: We are honest and have the courage to do the right thing, always. We are reliable and do what we say we will do. We ask if we want to borrow things and return them.

Responsibility: We always do our job with pride and integrity. We use self-control and turn in assignments on time.

Citizenship: We treat others the way we want to be treated. We do our share to make our school and community a better place.

Fairness: We play by the rules, take turns and share.

Daily Schedule

(This may change to meet the needs of students)

8:12 First bell rings: line up by classroom door.

8:15 Tardy bell rings. *If your child isn't in line at this time, they are marked tardy.*

Whole school flag salute in classroom over PA system

8:20-8:45

Planners (students write in and I check for signatures)

Daily Ticket (roll/lunch count)

Announcements

Math Facts (4 min. per side, twice)

8:45-9:30

Language Arts instruction whole class (Social Studies & Science is integrated into the curriculum)

9:30-10:30 Small Groups/stations

Language Arts/Push-in intervention/E.L. instruction

- Word Analysis/Vocabulary Development
- Grammar/Language Conventions
- Reading Comprehension

RECESS 10:25-10:40

10:45-11:00 Finish up small group tasks/station work

11:00-12:00

Writing

- Whole class instruction
- mini-lessons
- Writing conferences

LUNCH 12:00-12:50 (1:00 on Fridays)

12:55-2:00

Math

Correct previous night's homework whole class.

Math Lesson

Small group intervention if needed

2:00-2:30

Independent work time

This allows the students an opportunity to AR read, complete classwork tasks, begin HW, etc.

2:30-3:00

P.E. and Stack & Pack

- We will visit the library once a week. Each student is required to have 2 AR books checked out. The AR books must be in their reading range and one book should be a chapter book.
- Choir is a pull out program; therefore if your child is in choir, he/she will miss time in class.



BINDER, HOMEWORK, FOLDERS and GRADING POLICY

1. **Binder:** A 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. binder that will be organized in a way that is user friendly for both student and parent. The binder **MUST** travel back and forth each night. Here's a look inside the binder.
2. **Weekly Behavior Report:** This will be a double sided sheet on card-stock paper that will cover the span of 10 weeks. It will be hole punched and should stay in your child's binder for the entire 10 week period. It will communicate your child's daily behavior for the week. Your child will be responsible for recording the color that corresponds with their behavior for the day. Please check it often and sign it weekly.
3. **Parent/Teacher Communication Log:** This will be a colored card-stock paper that will be used for communication between us. If I have written on it, I will flag it with the post-it note so you can see that there is a message from me. Please do the same, so I can see that there is a message from you. Initials indicate the comment has been read.
4. **STAR Folder - Homework (HW):**
 - You will find your child's homework in the **STAR folder** at the front of the binder.
 - It will consist of assignments that weren't finished in class or assignments that are due on a certain day.
 - It is the student's responsibility to write in their planners every morning.
 - It's the parent's responsibility to check their finished work against what is written in the planner.
 - Please sign only if your child completed the assignments with pride and integrity.
 - If your child didn't finish their homework, please do not sign the planner.
 - I check planners each morning for signatures and will stamp or initial their planner if they have a signature and HW is complete.
 - It is expected that your child complete all of his/her work with pride and integrity.

****Every week your child will have a **spelling contract** to complete. This is assigned on Monday and is *due on Friday*.**

****Vocabulary work will mainly be done in class. However, your child will need to study his/her words throughout the 2 week period. Some students benefit from making flashcards. Vocabulary tests are every other Friday.**
5. **Planner:** Your child will write in this every day to keep track of homework assignments. Please check it every night (see above).
6. **OSCAR folder:** This is the folder located towards the back of the binder. This folder will contain my newsletter (Star-worthy News), school information, flyers, graded work, papers needing parent signatures, etc. I would suggest emptying it out on Monday afternoon just in case there is an assignment that needs to be redone or a form needing your attention for that week.
7. **Late work policy/ Missing work policy:** Please note that a late assignment(s) result in points deducted from the grade. Your child may receive a loss of recess, lunch lab, or detention in order to complete his/her missed assignment(s). Students are expected to complete all assignments, and **will not receive a "0" as an 'off the hook' grade.** Your child may also be required to re-do work if it contains excessive errors or shows a lack of effort.
8. **Absent/Make-up policy:** If a student is absent he/she will be responsible for completing the assignments that were missed while out. Papers that were passed out while the student was absent will be on their desk. It's the student's responsibility to copy HW assignments from the board or a friend's planner. The student then has the number of days absent to turn in his/her work. Ex.: absent for 2 days = 2 days to make-up the work. It's also a good idea to exchange phone numbers with friends in class.

I have clearly explained and shown the students where they are to turn in late or make-up work. It is up to them to put it in the tray.

Letter Grades: A (90-100%) - Excellent B (80-89%) - Good C (70-79%) - Average
 D (60-69%) -Below Average F (59% & below) - Failing

Awards, Rewards, Consequences

Academic Lunch: Students who pass their MAFT or LAFT tests (quarterly tests) will earn the academic lunch reward.

Qtr. 1: 75% on both tests Qtr. 2: 80% on both tests Qtr. 3 and 4: 85% on both tests

A.R.: Part of your child's daily homework is to A.R. read for 30 minutes each night. If your child reaches their AR goal all 4 quarters, they will earn the Accelerated Reader Medallion. Your child will receive a certificate of achievement if he/she reaches their AR goal for at least 2 quarters. AR is part of the criterion for earning the Sparthenian Award. It is also 10% of your child's reading grade.

Block J: Each child has a Block J form in their planner to keep track of their achievements throughout the semester. Please **assist** your child in filling out this form every quarter. At the end of the 2nd quarter (1st semester) and 4th quarter (2nd semester), I will verify your child's points and see if he/she met the requirements to earn Block J. This is the biggest award a child can earn on campus. In order to earn Block J students must be exemplary in Mind, Body and Spirit.

Quarterly Awards:

Principal's Honor Roll: Straight A's

High Honor Roll: All A's one B

Honor Roll: All A's and B's

Sparthenian: Academic criteria must be met each quarter

Author of the Quarter: exceptional writing abilities

Artist of the Quarter: exceptional artistic abilities



Classroom Discipline and Rewards: Students need a positive educational climate in order to grow and succeed. All students deserve to work in an environment conducive to learning. To encourage students to follow the rules, I will recognize them with praise, tickets, group points, privileges, etc. If a student chooses to not follow the rules there will be consequences such as loss of tickets, recess, or co-curricular activities. Furthermore, parent contact, after school detention, or a referral to the office may also be necessary. This all depends on the level of the violation in accordance with the flow chart of consequences.

When school and home form a united front, students tend to make good choices and avoid consequences.

Jefferson Policies

Absences: Please be sure to send a note, call or email the office to clear your child's absence. 327-7000. If you know your child is going to be absent for 5 or more days, let the attendance secretary know at least one week in advance and an independent study will be made available.

Tardiness: If a student is not in line when the tardy bell rings at 8:15 they are considered tardy. If your child arrives at school after 8:15 you must go to the office for a late slip.

Anyone having several unexcused absences or tardiness will be sent to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB).

Cell Phones: A student's cell phone must be turned 'off 'while at school, no exceptions. It is a huge disturbance to the class when a cell phone rings.

Dress Code (common violations; this is not the complete dress code policy)

- Shorts are to be worn ***no shorter than six inches*** above the top of the kneecap, but no shorter than mid-thigh. They must have a hem, and not be form fitting such as spandex/bike shorts. Last day to wear shorts is October 30th.
- Skirts, skorts and dresses must be worn ***no shorter than four inches*** above the kneecap. This is the same even if leggings are worn underneath.
- Tank tops and sleeveless shirts are not acceptable for males.
- Shoulder straps on tops and dresses on females must not be less than two inches in width.
- No put downs on any clothing
- No make-up on female students
- Only Jefferson, Clark or Clovis High hats. Plain beanies in the winter time are okay.
- Male haircuts may not fall below the mid-point of a standard stand up shirt collar and earlobes must be visible.

Volunteers

Your assistance in the classroom and on campus is needed and welcomed. Any help is greatly appreciated whether you can make it in to the classroom or help at home. Some parents like to team up to be head room parents. Please fill out the "Parent Helper" sign-up sheet if you're interested.

****** All volunteers and potential chaperones must fill out the Volunteer Application form and attach a copy of your CA driver's license at least 3 weeks prior to volunteering or chaperoning. This form can be picked up from and turned in to the front office.***

