

# STEM SCHOOL HIGHLANDS RANCH FOURTH GRADE QUICK START GUIDE

## **Mission**

Never Stop Innovating

## **Vision**

We envision a world of exponential possibilities where every child develops the innate knowledge, skills, creativity and character to thrive, lead and succeed in an ever-changing future.

## **Formula for Character**

Honesty, Integrity, Empathy, Respect, Responsibility

## **Fourth Grade Team**

Ms. Brost, Mr. Jacobson, Ms. McKinney, Ms. Phelps, and Mrs. Tracey

## **Daily Schedule**

Students are divided into four home rooms and move with this group to other classes.

The fourth grade classes start at 7:40am with morning announcements followed by the Classroom Meeting/Community Time. Students arriving after 7:40 are marked tardy.

7:30am-7:40am	Soft Start (morning announcements)
7:40am-8:10am	Classroom Meeting/Community Time
8:10am-9:30am	Math
9:15-9:30	Snack recess and Study hall
9:30am-10:20am	Social Studies
10:20am-11:10am	Specials
11:10am-12:05pm	Science
12:00pm-12:50	Lunch & Recess
12:50pm-2:25pm	Literacy
2:30	Dismissal

## **Instructional Assistants**

STEM School Highlands Ranch is proud to provide a Full Time Instructional Assistant dedicated to 4th grade. Having an Instructional Assistant in the classroom provides additional support for both students and their teachers each and every day.

Instructional Assistants work either in small groups or one-on-one to offer support as needed. Our assistants are extremely valued and we expect that they are respected as any other adult on campus.

## **Subjects Taught (links to the standards)**

### [Science and Engineering](#)

### [Math](#)

### [Language Arts](#)

### [Social Studies](#)

## **Specials Rotations**

Students at STEM are given the opportunity to engage in learning Music, Art, Physical Education and Chinese Language and Culture. The Specials classes rotate every 2 weeks.

## **Snacks**

Snacks are encouraged during recess. Students will have a designated time to enjoy snacks during a morning recess. Please try to send in a healthy snack for this recess. Candy is not a healthy snack.

## **Recess and Lunch**

Weather permitting, students will have the opportunity to enjoy (2) outdoor recess times. There will be both a morning “snack” recess and a recess after lunch. The first snack recess may be used as a study hall if a student has assignments to catch up on, or wishes to complete a project or study for an assessment. These recesses will be approximately 15-20 minutes long. Students will have an opportunity to get some fresh air and enjoy their snack before getting in some outdoor play time or they may have their snack in study hall where they will work on missing work or assessment retakes.

Students are welcome to play on the playground or to play various games on the black top including but not limited to hockey, soccer, and basketball.

### **Office Hours**

Fourth grade teachers will post their office hours on canvas. Office hours are for students to make up any missing assignments and to retake assessments. Assessment retakes will only be allowed during office hours or during snack recess.

### **Lunch Numbers**

When ordering a hot lunch from Nutrition Services, your student will be required to enter a six digit “lunch number” into a typical 10-key number pad. This “lunch number” is in fact your students DCSD (Douglas County School District) student ID number. This number will follow your student to any school they attend within DCSD.

### **Cafeteria Expectations**

The students enter the cafeteria in the Hot Lunch line or find their designated seat to eat their cold lunch and have 20 minutes to eat. Each table has a “Hopper Pass” for leaving the table to get water or condiments and only one student per table can be up at once. They are expected to chat in an inside voice as the cafeteria gets loud quickly. We ask that the students’ primary focus be on eating rather than socializing as lunch time is limited and we want each student to get the nutrition they need to learn.

A five minute warning is given before teachers are due to pick up the students so they can finish their lunch and clean up. They understand the expectation to clear their places, recycle milk cartons, water bottles, or cans and put their trays by the sink and pick up any trash off of the floor. Students are not allowed to wash the tables, but are expected to clean all items from the table areas.

### **Field Trips**

Field trips are thoughtfully planned to give unique, hands-on educational experiences for further exploration and to supplement what is already being taught in the classroom. Most 4th grade field trips are designed to illustrate and expand upon content students have learned or will learn in social studies. 4th grade social studies focuses primarily on Colorado's history. For example, students learn about the Ancestral Puebloans in class, and then go on a field trip to the Manitou Cliff Dwellings in which they experience what life was like for these people.

### **Typical Field trip schedule and estimated cost**

**Sept. -Denver Zoo- est. cost \$50**

Our science focus for the first semester is Life Science. Students are partnering with the Denver Zoo to redesign 10 animal exhibits. Part of this program is for students to have two classroom experiences led by zoo keepers, a visit to the zoo to learn about the habitat, sketch the habitat that will be redesigned, and learn about the different variables that students need to include in the design. The last visit is for the students to present to the board members and zoo keepers at the zoo to convince them to use their design in the zoo's upcoming redesign of the habitat.

**Sept- Moving day- History Colorado- Est cost \$0**

Students will explore the movement of people across Colorado from prehistory to 1870. By examining community groups, like the Ancestral Puebloans, Mountain Men, Miners, Utes, Plains Indians and Hispanos, students will discover how each group has contributed and influenced life today in Colorado.

**Oct. 4th- Manitou Springs Cliff Dwellings Est cost \$12**

Students will experience an up close and personal look into the life of the Anasazi. Here they will learn about Anasazi culture, including how they farmed, hunted and endured.

**Oct. 8th & 9th- Plains Conservation Center- Est cost \$15**

Get to know the prairie in a whole new way. On our ride across the plains, students watch for wildlife in the landscape, from prairie dogs to pronghorn antelope or birds of prey, beneath the great stretching sky. With stops at the Sod Homes and Cheyenne Camp, your group will experience what it was like to be a homesteader and a Cheyenne living on the prairie in the 1800s.

**Nov- History Museum and Walking Tour- est cost \$ 18**

This includes the tour of the museum as well as a walking tour exploring the history of capitol hill.

**Feb- World of Waves- Est cost \$15**

The *World of Waves STEM Workshop* blends cutting-edge science, interactive technology and student-directed inquiry supporting the next generation of innovators, scientists and engineers. Driven by Colorado's Academic Standards, as well as Next Generation Science Standards, this program incorporates 4th-8th grade content and learning focused on the fundamental role of waves in science, technology, innovation and CU research

**Dec.- State Capitol and Justice Center- est cost \$16**

Students will learn about the three branches of government and how our justice system works.

**April/May Union Station/ Larimer Square walking tour- Est cost \$22**

Explore Denver's oldest block and learn about the first city center and how local citizens saved the block of buildings from demolition to create Denver's first historic district.

#### **April/ May Buffalo Bill Experience- est. cost \$3**

*The 4<sup>th</sup> graders are studying Colorado History. The Buffalo Bill Experience will help to support your efforts and fire the kids up about those areas in particular. Along with little known historical anecdotes, "Buffalo Bill" addresses the universal issues that those legends also faced, like bullying, being made fun of, not feeling special, and family issues that kids still face today, bringing a "human" side to those faded photographs.*

#### **Water Bottles (Students are required to bring a water bottle daily during Covid)**

We encourage students to carry water in leak proof bottles in order to stay hydrated. All water bottles should be clearly labeled with the Student's name.

#### **School Supplies**

In the fall, prior to the beginning of the school year, parents will receive a school supply list. Additional items needed are: backpack, water bottle, comfortable shoes, as the students do go outside for both morning snack and lunch recess.

#### **Use of Technology**

Technology will be utilized in the classroom on a daily basis. Technology will be used in many ways such as teaching coding and research activities with the assistance of the classroom teacher and instructional assistants. It will also be used to facilitate independent and small group activities or lessons throughout the day. Students will be instructed on proper use and care of our school technology resources. Basic understanding of how to use apps and navigate websites will help your student in using technology in the classroom and getting the most of this valuable classroom resource. All students will be assigned a chrome book that will stay at school for them to use. Students are also allowed to bring in a 5G compatible device from home, but this is not required. Students will use canvas, google docs, to do assignments and take tests. Students will be expected to use their Chromebooks **only** for educational purposes as well as take care of them and be respectful when posting comments on their classroom site.

Online learning sites kids will use:

Flocabulary	Prodigy Math	iReady	ck12.org	Class Dojo	Code.org	Education.weebly.com	Flipgrid	Tynker
Foss Web	Khan Academy	Lego Mindstorm	Manga High	Padlet	Readtheory.org	Spelling City	Symbaloo	Voki
Freeric e	No Red Ink	Pear Deck	Piktochart	Powtoon	Scholastic	Story Jumper	IXL	Google Suite
			RAZ Kids	Canvas				

### **Birthday Celebrations**

We love to celebrate your students' birthday at STEM, but also value instructional time. Birthdays will be shared on the morning announcements and they are given a birthday pencil. With advance notice to the classroom teacher, your child also may bring in an edible, preferably healthy treat or goodie bag to share with the class but this is not required. Please reach out to your child's homeroom teacher to find out about any dietary or allergy concerns.

### **Volunteering (This will resume after Covid vaccine is available)**

Volunteering in the classroom is a great way to help the teacher and to be involved and informed of what your student is learning in the classroom. There are limited opportunities to volunteer in the classroom so please remember to allow other parents to sign up for volunteer opportunities as well. Many times, your student's teacher will plan a special activity for you to do with the class during your scheduled volunteer time. If for some reason you cannot make it for a scheduled volunteer time, please remember to be courteous and give the classroom teacher sufficient notice. This will ensure that they may have time to prepare an alternate lesson for the class.

**Fourth Grade Spartans!**

**Yes we are!**

We look forward to a great year in Fourth Grade!