



UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
Rhodes Elementary School
Room 12

Dear Proud Colorado Parents,

August 20, 2024

Welcome to the University of Colorado...home of the 4th grade Buffaloes!! I am honored and extremely excited to be your child's teacher this year. We have an exciting year ahead of us, and I look forward to working with you as we prepare this year's Colorado Buffaloes for a lifetime of success!

As you all know, Rhodes Elementary School has high expectations for all students and staff, and we will hold these same standards here in Colorado. I believe that all my students will be able to go above and beyond in all that they do, and we'll all have fun doing it!

I hope that students will find 4th grade to be an amazing year of learning. There will be many opportunities for questions and discussion, so I encourage everybody that walks through Colorado to have an open mind. The students will often be collaborating with their peers, which can be invaluable in teaching them about supporting and working with each other. Furthermore, the students' families play a large role in their success, which is why I encourage you to ask your students questions about what they learned each day. Work with them. Share their excitement. Have fun with them!

I can't wait to get to know each of you better!

Welcome!
Mrs. Ortiz

In the following pages I have noted several important classroom policies. In order to provide a cooperative and productive learning environment for our Buffaloes, it is important that we work together in supporting these procedures.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

During the first weeks of school, your students and I discussed the behaviors necessary for a safe and positive learning environment. Our rules are consistent with Rhodes's school-wide rules. Here are our classroom rules:

1. Be Respectful
2. Be Responsible
3. Be Safe
4. Always do your best

WHEN STUDENTS MAKE GOOD CHOICES

Students working productively, following classroom rules, completing assignments, and being kind to their classmates will be rewarded with Tickets. Once a student earns some tickets, they can redeem them for various rewards. For example, sitting with a friend or some extra recess time.

In addition, the students can choose to enter their tickets in the drawing for the Best of the Beach Award, which will be given out only once a trimester. The Best of the Beach Award is a bucket filled with various candy and a Hula Tang or Baskin Robbins gift card.

The students will also earn team points and whole class points based on goals we're working on. These points will lead to a reward such as extra tickets, a piece of candy on Friday, or a whole class reward that was agreed upon. Examples include extra PE time or free play, game day, or even an electronic day. The students decide.

WHEN STUDENTS NEED TO MAKE BETTER CHOICES

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1st Warning: | Verbal warning |
| 2nd Warning: | Another verbal warning |
| 3rd Warning: | Consequence |

(May include moving to a different location in the classroom, not participating in an activity, finishing work at home, or cleaning up if appropriate) **The student will receive a Wipe Out Slip to take home that a parent or guardian needs to sign and return the next day.** (A Wipe Out Slip lowers the student's Habits of Success Grade.)

HOW IS BEHAVIOR CALCULATED?

1. Each day the students start with a 4 in behavior.
2. Three warnings in a day lowers the student's behavior grade to a 2.
3. An office referral automatically lowers the behavior grade to a 1.
4. The behavior grade is sent home in the bi-weekly folder.

HOMework

Homework will be assigned nightly Monday-Thursday. Homework is meant to be a review of what is being taught in the classroom and will help to reinforce and practice what students are learning in class. Daily homework will include reading for at least 20 minutes (Differentiated Reading), completing a Reading Log, and completing a math practice page. We will not have math homework on testing days. Also, any unfinished classwork will also be assigned as homework. Students are responsible for bringing their homework folder and agenda to and from school every day. Homework is due as they enter the classroom each morning.

Your child should spend no more than 40 minutes on homework each school night. This includes reading for at least 20 minutes each school night. Please check your child's work for neatness and accuracy every night. Make sure they **show all work on their math assignments**. If your child seems to spend more than 40 minutes on homework on a regular basis, please let me know so I can make necessary accommodations.

GRADING POLICY

Grading serves as a valuable instructional tool by helping students and parents identify each student's areas of strength and the areas needing improvement. I will evaluate each student's work in relation to the fourth grade California Content Standards. Listed below is the school-wide grading criteria:

- 4 Extending – student has an in-depth understanding of grade level performance standards expected at this point of the year.
- 3 Achieving – Student is consistently meeting the grade level performance standards expected at this point of the year.
- 2 Progressing – Student is partially meeting the grade level performance standards expected at this point of the year.
- 1 Beginning/Standard Not Met – Student is not yet meeting grade level performance standards expected at this point of the year.
- X Not Applicable – This standard or group of standards was not assessed during this time period.

PARTIES

Buffaloes love to celebrate! We will have four classroom parties throughout the year: Literature Day, December Holiday, Valentine's Day, and End-of-the-Year. I ask that ALL food items for class celebrations or special events be store bought with ingredients listed. This includes the contents of any "goody" bags given out at classroom parties. Students may have severe nut allergies (this includes items that are produced in a factory with nuts) and we don't want to take any chances.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are very special! I will lead the class in singing happy birthday to our Birthday Buffalo and will hand out a special Buffalo Birthday candy item. If you would like to celebrate your child's birthday with the class, please let me know in advance and we can arrange a day and time near the end of our school day. All treats must be store bought and handed out to every student in the classroom. The school-wide rule is that only small cupcakes are allowed if choosing to bring cupcakes.

COMMUNICATION

I will be updating my classroom website on a regular basis. I will include up-to-date information including classroom announcements, field trip information, and other pertinent information. I will also be using Parent Square as my main form of communication. I recommend downloading the app to your phone for quick and easy access. It is an excellent way to keep up with important dates and events, and it is a great way to stay in tune with your child's learning.

Weekly folders will go home every other Wednesday. These will contain any recent test scores as well as a behavior update for your Scholar. Please sign the form inside the folder and have your student return it the next day.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. You can email me at taina_ortiz@chino.k12.ca.us. You may also contact me through the school's phone (909)364-0683. Please keep in mind that I do not have the opportunity to view my email throughout the school day. If there is a time sensitive issue you need to relay, please call the school.

Thank you for your support. I look forward to a wonderful, productive school year!

"Let Your Light Shine!!!"

Mrs. Taina Ortiz
taina_ortiz@chino.k12.ca.us

