

September 1, 2023

Dear Families,

I am so looking forward to working with you and your student(s) this year! Below is some information you may find helpful about our class and routines this year:

**Library:** Tuesday 12:45-1:15

**P.E:** Monday/Wednesday 9:25-10:00

- Please try to have students wear tennis shoes and appropriate clothes on P.E. days.

**Music:** Tuesday/Thursday 9:25-10:00

**Snack:** Feel free to send an *individual* snack for your student each day. Students will have a designated snack break @ 10:15am, following morning recess.

**Water Bottles:** To help reduce the number of water breaks outside of the classroom, each student may bring a well-sealed water bottle with their name on it.

**Weekly Folders:** You will be seeing a purple *Friday Folder* come home each week. This is where you will find important handouts, permission slips, students' completed work, etc. Please be sure to remove these papers and return the folder with your student, before the following Friday.

**Homework:** There will be no formal/weekly homework! Things that correlate with student success: **Eat** dinner as a family. **Read** together. **Play** outside. **Sleep:** go to bed early!

*\*On occasion,* students may have a project to complete at home and bring to school to present, but there will be plenty of advanced notice when that is the case. For example: in the Spring, students will create an invention outside of school and bring it to class to present for their State Worksample!

**Spelling:** We will practice spelling words with an emphasis on the spelling pattern(s) each week, but there will ***not*** be a weekly spelling test.

**Birthdays:** Sometimes students want to celebrate their birthdays by providing classmates with a special snack. Snacks to share with the class ***must*** be store-bought and easy to serve. Napkins provided in addition to the snack are always helpful if it's a messy treat! We have **22 students** this year. Please simply email me in advance to coordinate!

**Star of the Week:** Near your students' birthday (or half birthday), your student will be encouraged to bring a Show and Tell (must fit in their backpack and be school appropriate) and any photos of family/friends/pets they'd like posted on their "Star of the Week" board for the week. I will email you the Friday before their Star of the Week as a reminder!

**Volunteers:** Please make sure you have completed the district volunteer application on the Philomath School District website within the last **three** years, to ensure you are a district approved volunteer. There will be a few opportunities to take chaperones on field trips this year, but it will require you to be a district approved volunteer, and will be on a first come, first served basis.

**Contact:** Email is the best way to get in touch with me, as I am able to check it throughout the day. My email is [Melissa.Fitzsimons@philomath.k12.or.us](mailto:Melissa.Fitzsimons@philomath.k12.or.us). I'm also constantly updating our class website with important information, pictures, etc. Please feel free to check it out, <http://mrsfitzsimonspes.weebly.com/>. Lastly, if you have a message to get to your student, such as a change in how they're getting home, who to meet after school, etc, please contact Amber in the front office @ 541-929-3253.

Please do not hesitate to reach out at any point during the year if you have any questions, concerns, etc. I am here to problem solve with you and your student if need be, as well as celebrate what's bringing them joy! My hope is that fourth grade is a time for students to truly advocate for themselves and come to me with anything they'd like to work through! The transition from third to fourth grade is a big jump, so please know we are all here to support your students and we want to create a safe, welcoming, and fun space for them to thrive!

Thank you and here's to a great year!

Melissa Fitzsimons (pronounced Fitz-sigh-mins)  
Melissa.Fitzsimons@philomath.k12.or.us  
541-929-3253

 **HANDLE WITH CARE** 

**If your family is experiencing difficulties at home, I would like to provide additional support at school. I understand that you are not always able to share details and that's okay. If your child is coming to school after a difficult night, morning or weekend, please email me "Handle with Care." Nothing else will be said or asked. This will let me know that your child may need extra time, patience or help during the day.**

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