

Colegio Jorge Washington

Great Schools are made of Great People!

∞ **Grade 4B** ∞ **2011-2012** ∞ **Marcelle Dunham** ∞ marcelle.dunham@cojowa.edu.co ∞

Welcome to 4B!

Hello and welcome to the new school year. My name is Marcelle (pronounced Marcela) Dunham and I'm originally from Minneapolis, Minnesota. I have a Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education and hope to begin earning a master's degree in counseling next year. I spent the last five years pioneering a Spanish Immersion program in Minnetonka, Minnesota, where I fell in love with teaching children in their second language.

By supporting your child in his/her education at COJOWA, you are giving your child the priceless gift of bilingualism and that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. I consider it a great privilege to be part of that work. My hope this year is for each student to experience growth and success both personally and academically. I look forward to working with you to support students in obtaining each of their hopes and dreams.

4B's Hopes and Dreams

Our class has reflected about their hopes and dreams for their life and for this school year. In order for each student to achieve his/her hopes and dreams each student is challenged to:

- ❖ Set and accomplish academic goals (Hopes and Dreams)
- ❖ Problem solve and work in groups (Classroom Community)
- ❖ Think Independently (Class work/Homework)
- ❖ Manage and monitor their behavior (Weekly Letters Home)

Support from Home

You contribute to your child's success this year and in attaining his/her hopes and dreams by supporting the work in our classroom at home.

Here are 5 important ways you can help:

1. Planners
2. Homework
3. Behavior
4. Attendance
5. Student Materials

Planners –These have not arrived from the printer yet. In the meantime, we've been using a homework sheet.

Please use the student planner as a tool to:

- ✓ Discuss and monitor student's hopes and dreams
- ✓ Hold students accountable for homework
- ✓ Discuss and monitor student behavior success and improvements
- ✓ Communicate with me! 😊 (Please also feel free to communicate with me by e-mail or schedule a conference with me during my open planning time.)

Homework

Reading- Students are expected to read 30 minute at least 5 days a week. The book students are reading will be read in school and at home. Please support students in developing a system to help them read at home and return with their book ready to also read in class.

Homework will be assigned to support students in practicing skills they have learned in class. The homework is due the next day. It is the student's responsibility to request the homework if they are absent. Some assignments involve students talking with you. Please feel free to have these conversations in English or Spanish.

Behavior

4B has agreed to use the following behaviors to support them in reaching their hopes and dreams:

- Be a good friend
- Try and to your best, even when it's hard
- Practice self-control
- Take care of our materials and organize them
- Make good choices

Students will be sending notes home to you to keep you updated about their behavior. Every Friday students will write a letter to you reporting how they did for the week. Please discuss student behavior with your child and return the note signed. Thank you for your support at home!

Attendance

An additional way to support students in reaching their hopes and dreams is to assist them in being on time and at school every day. Please be aware that the bell rings and school starts at 7:30am.

Student Materials:

It would be greatly appreciated if each student could bring in the following materials for the classroom:

- 1 box of tissues
- 1 roll of paper towels

Both of these supplies help to prevent germs and keep students healthy in the classroom. Thank you!

Additional Resources

Additional on-line resources are just a click away.

Reading Websites:

www.storyline.net
www.storiestogrowby.com

Language Websites:

<http://www.vocabulary.co.il>
<http://storynory.com/>

Math Websites:

www.funbrain.com
www.pbskids.org
www.figurethis.org
http://www.mrmyers.org/Math_Mania/ttmult.html

Science Websites:

<http://kids.mtpe.hq.nasa.gov/>
<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com>

Social Studies Websites:

<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/>
<http://www.kids.gov>

Others:

<http://www.brainpop.com>
www.starfall.com
www.gamesforthebrain.com

4B Schedule

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1 7:30-8:20	Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
2 8:20-9:10	Science/SS	Science/SS	Science/SS	Science/SS	Español
Snack 9:10-9:25					
1st Recess 9:25-9:45					
3 9:45-10:35	Language Arts	Soc. de Colombia	Library	Música	Drama
4 10:35-11:25	Español	PE	Soc. de Colombia	Language Arts	Language Arts
Lunch 11:25-11:45					
2nd Recess 11:45-12:05					
5 12:05-12:55	Language Arts	Language Arts	PE	Arte	Language Arts
6 12:55-13:45	Religión	Español	Language Arts	Language Arts	Values
7 13:45-14:35	Technology	Language Arts	Language Arts	Español	Extracurricular

Courses

Reading: The Daily 5

The Daily Five is a literacy structure that teaches independence and gives children the skills needed to create a lifetime love of reading and writing. It consists of five tasks that are introduced individually. When introduced to each task, the children discuss what it looks like, sounds like, and feels like to engage in the task independently. Then, the children work on building their stamina until they are successful at being independent while doing that task. At the beginning of the year it takes a lot of time to form these good habits, but taking the time to do this is worth it.

The five tasks include:

1. Read to self
2. Read to someone
3. Listen to reading
4. Work on writing
5. Word work (spelling)

When all five tasks have been introduced and the children are fully engaged in reading and writing activities, I am able to work with small groups and confer with children one on one. This structure is effective, the results are amazing, and the children really look forward to Daily Five time.

CAFE

This year you will also hear your child talk about our CAFE board. CAFE is an acronym that I have explained below. This will provide the categories by which I teach and model each reading strategy. Your child and I will select individual reading goals and strategies based on his/her strengths and needs.

CAFE is an acronym that stands for:

Comprehension – *I understand what I read*

Accuracy – *I can read the words correctly.*

Fluency – *I can read accurately, with expression, and understand what I read.*

Expand Vocabulary – *I know, find, and use interesting words.*

Writing: Units of Study for teaching Writing, Grades 3-5

Units of Study for Teaching Writing is organized around six units of study. Each unit lays out four to six weeks of instruction. Presented sequentially, these units help each student learn narrative and expository writing with increasing sophistication. We will be covering three of the six units in 4th grade. The three units are described below:

1. Launching the Writing Workshop

This unit jumpstarts the year by reviewing and teaching the essentials of writing – collecting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. It introduces practical strategies for finding topics and generating writing. It also helps foster a community of writers and teaches students how to work with partners constructively.

2. Raising the Quality of Narrative Writing

In this unit students learn how to use emblematic details, images, dialogue, and carefully-chosen words to make a small moment into a compelling story. While developing a personal narrative students learn to create suspense, align story elements into a whole, and use timelines to link internal thoughts with external plots.

3. Breathing Life into Essays

This unit guides students in how to craft thesis-driven essays drawn from their own personal experiences and expertise. Throughout this unit students learn how to develop a thought, organize their thinking with boxes and bullets, and use writing conventions to strengthen their work.

School-wide behavior program: Second Step

We will be using a school-wide curriculum called Second Step to teach and discuss the positive social skills of empathy, anger management, impulse control and problem solving. This is the first year we are implementing this program at COJOWA.

Math: Everyday Math

Everyday Math is a researched-based program that allows students to be exposed to math concepts multiple times throughout a given year. Everyday Math includes the following 12 Units:

Unit 1: Naming and Constructing Geometric figures

Unit 2: Using numbers and organizing data

Unit 3: Multiplication and division

Unit 4: Decimal and their uses

Unit 5: Big Numbers, Estimation, and Computation

Unit 6: Division; math reference frames; measures of angles

Unit 7: Fractions and their uses; Chance and Probability

Unit 8: Perimeter and Area

Unit 9: Fractions, Decimals and Percents

Unit 10: Reflections and Symmetry

Unit 11: 3-D shapes, Weights, Volume, and Capacity

Unit 12: Rates

Rocket Math

Your child will work at his/her own pace in mastering basic math operations in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. We will take two minute timed tests 4-5 times a week that student's will self correct and monitor their own progress. The objective is to build automaticity and fluency that will provide a strong foundation for successful math learning in the future.

Social Studies:

Students will study the six different regions of the United States and understand each region's significance, impact on people, and relationship to the history of the nation. The six regions students will study are the: Northeast, Southwest, Midwest, West, Mountain States, and the Southeast.

Science:

Students will study components of Earth Science, Physical Science, and Nature of Science.

Earth Science: Water Cycle

Physical Science: Sources and Properties of Energy

Forces of Motion

Nature of Science: Scientific Knowledge, Inquiry, Enterprise