

classroom
WELCOME
TO GRADE 4
handbook

MRS. STEINKE



let's learn about
mrs. S
welcome!

I trust that your summer has been a time of anticipated adventures, rest and making memories with your family. I am thrilled that September is here! My name is Mrs. Steinke and I could not be more excited to introduce myself as your child's grade four teacher. This will be my seventh year at Cochrane Christian Academy (one of which was student teaching) and I have a huge heart for this community! I live in Cochrane with my husband (who is also a teacher) and we love this place and the people within it!

Before graduating with my Bachelor of Education and joining Rocky View Schools, I graduated from Ambrose with a degree in Behavioural Sciences and a minor in Biology. Currently, I am taking a Masters of Education through the University of Calgary. Teaching has always been an aspiration of mine, as kids bring with them a sense of joy and curiosity that inspires me. I have been deeply changed by many of my past teachers, and I desire to have such an opportunity to influence my students. My hope is to unconditionally love each one of the children I teach, encouraging in them a sense of competency that reaches far past any subject matter, touching even their spiritual well being. I hope to instil in them a joy for learning, giving them a reason to be excited when they wake up each day, just as I experienced through most of my days as a student.

First and foremost, my love for Christ drives each day, including my choice to go into education as a ministry. Being at Cochrane Christian, where I can share my faith, is truly a blessing. My interests lie largely in athletics, as I feel sport has shaped me to value the concept of team, and I hope to integrate this into my practice. I have a passion for the mountains and travelling, believing there are few things that fresh air cannot fix, and that the world has more to offer than I could ever experience in one place.

I feel immensely grateful to have the opportunity to come alongside your child this coming year. I trust that this handbook will be a resource to assist you in supporting your child this school year!

Keep in touch,

Mrs. Steinke AKA Mrs. S

meet the teacher



Communication Plan

1. Weekly twitter posts about our current learning and activities (@mrs_s_4)
2. Monthly newsletter with curriculum objectives and reminders
3. Email reminders as needed
4. Daily agenda messages

Communicating With Me

Email: ssteinke@rockyview.ab.ca

School phone number: 403-932-5177.

Office hours: If your question or concern is more complicated, please email to arrange for a meeting. If possible, I try to return phone calls and emails on the same day, dependent on the hour received, though I step away from emails after 3:30 and on weekends. Your child's agenda is another excellent communication tool.

School Website

1. Go to <http://cca.rockyview.ab.ca/>
2. Click on Elementary and then Mrs. Steinke
3. You can now go to my site to view our class calendar, educational links, and copies of the Grade 4 handbook.

Stay Connected

Twitter is a tool I update often-check it out for a sneak peek into our classroom.

Twitter: @mrs_s_4

CLASSROOM ROUTINES & PROCEDURES

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATION & WHO WE ARE!



From day one, our classroom will discuss who we are, as I recognize the importance of the student's voices being integrated into our classroom! I believe in catching kids being their best and I reinforce this in a number of exciting ways! If I notice a student is struggling to follow our classroom expectations, I consistently redirect behavior using empathy, as described in the Love and Logic program. The class will have clear expectations, such as raising a hand to share. In the case of unexpected behaviour, I will give a warning. If this behaviour is repeated, the child will be asked to take time in a recovery space in the classroom to refocus. If this behaviour continues, I will contact you so that you are made aware. I believe in working as a team to best support each child's needs! For more information, please see the 'Grade 4 Classroom Management Packet' coming home soon to you.

CLASSROOM MANAGER REPORT TOOL



The class will be using a reflective learning tool called "Self Manager Reports" located in the front of the agenda. As a class, we will talk a lot about responsibility and developing independence. Self-managers are given opportunities, such as working in alternative learning spaces, if the week prior, they had met the "mostly always" target for the categories. Of course, kids will make mistakes and need warnings, hence why it is phrased "mostly always". I am confident that each child in my class can achieve this! These self-manager reports are simply a way for each child to reflect on their learning from that week, then consider what goals they might set for the next week to come. **Please sign the parent signature line at the end of each week.** I hope that we both can support your child in gaining independence and positive habits as they grow. If you have any questions, please let me know!

WATER & LUNCHES



The class will be eating their snack and lunch in their classroom. They will not have access to a microwave, so if they have warm food, it must be sent in a thermos. I encourage you to pack healthy snacks for your child. We are continuing with the Boomerang lunch program this year. This means that what students "pack in," they also "pack out." Any garbage, juice boxes, or ziplocks need to be put back into their lunch kits and taken home. As a school, we are now producing 3 times less garbage than we used to! I believe water is crucial to help kids (and adults) concentrate throughout the day. I strongly suggest you allow your child to bring a water bottle to school. It

DROP OFF/PICK UP & BUS ROUTINE



When soft entry time begins, students are asked to please wait outside of our grade 4 door until a teacher welcomes them in! For the children who take the bus each day, understanding correct protocols is important for their safety. Each child who rides the bus must have a bus pass that is easily visible attached to the outside of their backpack. Please make sure their bus route number is written on their pass. Students who are picked up will be released by a teacher at the designated spot. If you are making alternate pick up arrangements on a particular day, please write a note in the agenda or contact the school office to let me know.

CLASSROOM ECONOMY



This year your child will be given the opportunity to take part in our classroom economy. Each student will earn S Bucks, pay rent, buy “property”, make purchases, and even pay taxes! This program is used to teach numeracy skills, life skills and so much more. Stay tuned for more information as we kick start our economy!

VOLUNTEERING



If you are interested in volunteer opportunities, please let me know! For field trips and in school volunteering, ALL volunteers must have the Police Check and security clearance forms completed and approved beforehand. If you require a security clearance, please see the CCA secretary, Angie Watts, for forms and information.

HOME READING & HOMEWORK



I encourage you to read to your child, and your child read to you. Reading each night is invaluable to their growth as a learner; thus I hope each child can read at least 15-20 minutes per night (or more)! The students will go to the Learning Commons/Library each week and are encouraged to check out books.

Other than home reading, spelling practice (using the Words Their Way program), and memory verses, I will occasionally send quick tasks or notices home for students to bring items that may help with our learning. A math program called Mathletics, and a spelling program, Vocabulary A-Z, will also be in place to practice and reinforce skills. A password will be glued into the front of the agenda so these programs can be utilized as extra practice at home! I absolutely encourage the many extra curricular events, family time, and fun that children need outside of school, so I attempt to keep this to a minimum!

LITERACY



All of the elementary classrooms at CCA will use the Daily 5 program for reading, writing and word work. We continue to use the spelling/phonics/grammar program called "Words Their Way" this year. After each child's spelling skills are evaluated, they will be given weekly lists tailored to their individual learning development. The kids will complete activities in school to reinforce the spelling concepts. In addition, the students will have access to Vocabulary A-Z. It is an online spelling reinforcement program where they will complete activities and earn rewards.

BIBLE MEMORY



One aspect of CCA close to my heart is the Bible memory verse program, giving kids time to reflect and remember God's truth! The children will be provided with a series of Bible verses that relate to the topics of study or classroom themes. Bi-weekly they will be given the opportunity to practice and memorize the assigned Bible verse. At the end of the year, children who are successful in memorizing all of the verses will be rewarded with a scripture memory medal. I will email and send home a hard copy of our Bible memory verses shortly!

FIELD TRIPS & OUTINGS



Field trips and class adventures are a highlight of any school year! More information and forms will be coming. I am an advocate for bringing kids outside often. Thus, we will make frequent visits to Mitford Pond or take class walks (not part of our field trip count) with no cost. I will write agenda messages or send an email when we plan to be outside for more than our recess or gym times. Please have your child dress accordingly for these outings. More information will be coming soon!

SCHOLASTIC



Typically, each month the children will be given the opportunity to purchase books from the Scholastic orders. Generally, the books are inexpensive, and seasonal (great for gifts too)! A percentage of the sales goes to the classroom teacher and is used to expand the classroom library and purchase classroom materials! Thanks for your support!

TREATS & BIRTHDAYS



I appreciate any reason to celebrate, especially when we can celebrate someone in our class! I will recognize each student on their birthday. If you would like to send in a treat for the class, please ensure that it is pre-packaged (ie. mini chocolate bars).

MY BLUEPRINT



Rocky View Schools is using the My Blueprint program as a tool to facilitate student reflection and learning. My Blueprint is a kid-friendly, interactive portfolio tool that allows K-6 students to reflect on their learning, showcase their growth, and share their achievements. They can easily navigate through the portfolio, explore occupations, write journal entries, set goals, and upload files, pictures, videos, drawings, and audio recordings. My Blueprint can be accessed by each student's family. I will send a request to your email address. Stay tuned for an email regarding My Blueprint parent access from the coming weeks.

WHAT TO BRING (& WHAT NOT TO BRING)!



The supplies necessary for your child are already provided. The only supplies that I ask students to bring include a set of **comfortable HEADPHONES (clearly labeled in a zip lock) and an OPTIONAL CLIP BOARD (for outdoor learning)**. If you are unable to bring these two items, I am happy to provide for your child! If there are any extra supplies (i.e. art activities) that our class may need, an email will be sent out to see if anyone has access and could help! As the year goes on, there are many exciting toys and pieces of technology that come around. Please have your students leave these at home so they do not become a distraction or get misplaced. Any necessary tool, such as a cell phone, should be left turned off and in their backpacks for the entirety of the school day. I greatly appreciate your help and support in this!

AGENDA



Please remember to check your child's agenda every day. There will only be a few items written down, but this is a primary communication tool for us. This is also a way of getting involved in your child's learning, **as AMA, referring to Ask Me About, with a topic of the day**, will be written for you to engage in with your child! I also use the agendas to write down any learning-related tasks the student may have.

PRAYER



As we venture into the exciting school year ahead, I am excited and prayerful for a full and beautiful time together. I feel blessed to be at a school where prayer is a part of our day, and it would be a joy if you would join in this with us. Our class and school community deeply covet your prayers!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU & YOUR CHILD!



Building strong and lasting relationships with your child is my first priority as a teacher. I am looking forward to sharing pictures and artifacts about my own life with them. In the near future, I will be asking students to provide a few artifacts about who they are, but further details will be sent shortly. **Soon you will also receive a 'Getting to know you and your child questionnaire' and 'Grade 4 Classroom Management Packet'. If you could fill these out and send it back with your child this would be greatly appreciated.** I am eager to get to know your child and family better throughout our school year!

Blessings,

Mrs. Sarah Steinke aka Mrs. S
Grade 4
Cochrane Christian Academy