



Ready for a STELLAR Year!



Dear Parents,

I am writing to introduce myself to those who don't know me, and to say, "Welcome Back!" to those who do. My name is Jennifer House, and this is my 9th year at Philomath Elementary School, and my 21st year of teaching. (Wow! That went fast!) I am so excited to be your child's teacher this year! This year we have an Outer Space/Alien theme, and we'll be focusing on learning how to do our best in everything we do and working together as a team to achieve our goals and make our world a better place. There are so many terrific things to do and learn in fourth grade, and I can't wait to get started! Here are some ways you can help:

Stay-Tuned: Ask your child what he or she is studying, and read any emails or letters that are sent home on Mondays (in the Homework Folder,) or Fridays (in the Friday Folder). I will also post any important forms on the [class website](#), just in case it gets lost. Another really important way for you to stay in touch is to sign up for the [Remind](#) texting service. This is a way that you can receive quick reminders and updates about field trips and activities. I've attached a form explaining how you can.

Ask Questions: If you have any concerns or are wondering why something is happening, please feel free to call or email me at any time. **Email is the most effective way to communicate with me as I often don't get the chance to answer phone calls until the end of the day.** I welcome all concerns, ideas, and feedback that affect your child or our classroom. If something is not working, I am more than willing to talk. I welcome all feedback.



Homework: You should expect that every week your child will have homework. The purpose of the homework will be to solidify things that we're working on in class, as well as to communicate progress between home and school. The homework will be in the form of a spelling packet, (which will be sent home in a Homework Folder on Mondays,) as well as nightly work that hasn't been completed in class. (On three day weeks, or weeks before breaks, there will be no spelling.) The homework will be written down on a sheet every day and kept in the front of the Homework Folder. In addition, I will post the daily assignments on the [class website](#). I encourage you to set up with your child a scheduled time for homework each day. Because most of the homework will be assignments that are important to the next day's lessons, students who do not complete them will need to stay in during first recess for study hall.



I trust parent judgment on homework! Students should have no more than 40 minutes of homework on any given night. (The rule of thumb is 10 minutes per grade level.) So, if you feel they've been working hard, and need stop, then by all means, have them do it (just write me a note). Or, if it's been a rough night, and they (or you,) need a break, then set it aside, (and write me a note). If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please contact me.

Snack: All students may bring a nutritious snack and a bottle of water to school every day. No candy, desserts, or junk food will be allowed. Fruit, nuts, cheese, crackers, and popcorn are examples of appropriate snacks. Fruit roll-ups and Costco muffins are examples of high sugar snack (not allowed). Please do not send water bottles that have twist-off caps as they tend to make a mess when spilled – the same is true for any drink other than water. Please also give me a heads up at least a day ahead of time if your child is planning to bring a treat for his or her birthday (non-healthy things are allowed for birthdays). Birthday snacks will be handed out at the end of the day to avoid disruption. :-)



Volunteers: I love volunteers! There will be many opportunities to help out this year. I will have a sign-up at Open House toward the end of the month, but if you're dying to get started before then, just send me an email or jot me a note!

Website: We have a [class website](#), and I will do my best to make sure that it has copies of forms that you might need as well as copies of homework, class newsletters, and an updated calendar. If there is something that you would like to see on the website, please let me know, and I'll do my best to include it.



I'm looking forward to working with you this year!

Jennifer House

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<http://senoracasa22.wix.com/teamhouse>