Dear Parents and Guardians,

The beginning of the year is an exciting time for children. We’re looking forward to another rewarding and interesting year working with your children.

Many special events are planned to enrich academic experiences offering several opportunities for you to become an active parent partner/volunteer. You will be informed as these events are scheduled, inviting you to participate.

On the following pages you will find some valuable information regarding expectations for this year. Please take time to read through this packet.

Your child’s future depends on an excellent education. An excellent education depends on a partnership between child, teacher and parents.

The future walks through our doors.

Sincerely,
Jeff Harbin
Nancy Taphorn
Heather McCleary

If at any time you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Heather McCleary  303-326-3705  hamccleary@aurorak12.org
Jeff Harbin  303-326-3456  jmharbin@aurorak12.org
Nancy Taphorn  303-326-4144  nctaphorn@aurorak12.org
LITERACY (Reading, Writing, Word Study):

This will be our second year of Wonders, our literacy curriculum. Much of your child’s writing will be composed on the computer in Google Classroom. Students will be expected to write in 4 forms, informational, opinion, expository and responding to reading. Each teacher will be providing weekly feedback in order for your child to improve his/ her writing. We are excited to continue Wonders and know the students will enjoy the literature that is included in the program.

SPECIALS

Our specials include: Music, Art, P.E. and Library/Technology. We are scheduled to attend daily specials from 9:40-10:30. There will be a rotating schedule for Wednesday specials. You may refer to the schedule in the monthly Vassar Newsletter for their specials each day. Please make sure your child wears tennis shoes on the day of P.E.

SCIENCE

Each quarter science and social studies instruction will be alternated. Fourth grade science units are:

- Electricity and Magnetism
- Earth, Sun, and Moon
- The Environment

Evaluation for science will be based on group activities, discussions, participation, journals, and written assignments.

SOCIAL STUDIES

During Social Studies we will study:

- Regions of Colorado
- Colorado History

Evaluation for Social Studies is based on discussions, group activities, participation, special projects, written work and formal assessments.
GRADING PROCEDURES:

Aurora Public School’s report card does not use letter grades, but instead, will show the progress your child is making towards the Colorado State Standards. Therefore, to keep our grading system consistent with the report card, we will be using the following on most daily assignments:

- **A-** (advanced) performing at least one year above grade level
- **P-** (proficient) consistently performing at grade level
- **PP-** (partially proficient) performing below grade level
- **BU-** (beginning understanding) performing at least one year below grade level

A variety of assessments are compiled to determine your child’s progress toward the standards in all curricular areas. Some factors are participation, thinking skills, growth made, how independently a student works and having their work turned in on time consistently.

DAILY FOLDERS

Students are expected to bring their homework folder home daily. It will contain a Weekly Organizer and a Reading Log, which lists homework deadlines and announcements. This will also be used to communicate missing homework and daily behavior to parents.

Graded work will come home in the Daily Folder once a week.

Please note the space for parent signature. Your signature here indicates that you have seen the Weekly Organizer, the behavior report and recorded their daily reading. Parents and teachers can also use this to send notes between home and school. It is expected that the organizers have a parent signature every night. Please assist your student with establishing a routine to share their folder with you each day.

The Reading Log is due every Monday with a total of 150 minutes read. A weekly parent signature is required for the Reading Log (Please see the attached example of Weekly Organizer/Reading Log).

HOMEWORK

Homework is given for various reasons:

- to complete unfinished class work
- for reinforcement of skills
- for special projects

*Every student is also expected to read for 150 minutes per week and record the title of their book on his/her Weekly Organizer.*
BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Each day your child will receive a score on their behavior, based on a rubric. The score will be given on their Weekly Organizer. Students that attended Vassar last year used a similar method of communication. A consistent format provides another opportunity for your child to further develop self-assessment of their own work habits and behavior.

Behavior Rubric

You will notice a behavior chart in the classroom. This chart is used to help the students assess their ability to follow the classroom rules as they continue to develop their independence and responsibility.

As all students enter in the morning their card is on “Good.” As they progress through the day they have the opportunity to move up to “Outstanding.” Or, should they need to be reminded of the rules they will be moved to “Warning.” If the student should need further reminders they will be moved to “Consequences” and then to “The Office.” Wherever they end up at the end of the day will be recorded on their Weekly Organizer under rubric.

- **Outstanding** would earn a “+”
- **Good** would earn a “✓”
- **Warning** would earn a “✓-”
- **Time out** would earn an “x”
- **To the Office** would earn a “-”

It is the teacher’s expectation that every child would earn a “check” most days. An occasional “✓-” or “x” is not unusual.

BIRTHDAYS

Students enjoy bringing treats to school to celebrate their birthdays with their classmates. The procedure that works best is for children to bring their treats to school with them in the morning and leave them in their classroom. Then, they will distribute them to their classmates sometime during the day, at a time that will best accommodate our daily schedule. Please be sure that your treat is store-bought and is nut free and that there are enough for every classmate.