

Welcome to the 4th grade! My name is Ms. Hempel and this is my 10th year teaching. As a Ralston graduate myself, I am proud to call Ralston my home and love where I am at. I graduated with my teaching degree from UNO in 2007 and completed my master’s in curriculum and instruction in 2010. I am the mother to Lilly and Brooks, both kindergarteners at Meadows Elementary. When I am not teaching I enjoy relaxing on my deck, watching movies and being active with my family. I'm excited about the opportunity to get to know you, and I'm looking forward to a happy and productive school year.

COMMUNICATION

1. Google Voice: You can leave me a voicemail or text message at the following number anytime (402) 819-8410

2. You can email me at jayme\_hempel@ralstonschools.org any time throughout the day.

3. You can call and leave me a message with the office at (402) 331-0891 between the hours of 7:55 and 8:10 in the morning, and 3:30 to 3:45 in the afternoon.

4. You can send a private message through our classroom Facebook page (please make sure to accept my invite if you’ve left me your email address or send me a message letting me know that you would like an invite).

OTHER FORMS OF COMMUNICATION

***FACEBOOK:*** This will be updated daily/weekly to inform you about things we are working on, upcoming tests and important things to know. There will be a sign-up at Open House or I can invite you to the private page using your email address.

*Classroom Website:* Please visit for our schedule, spelling lists and other information. You can access my classroom webpage by visiting <http://blumfield.ralstonschools.org/home> and clicking on “staff webpages”.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

-Homework: My homework policy is that any school work not completed during the subject time or any extra work time will need to be finished as homework and returned the next morning.

-Anchor Binder (A **N**ightly **C**ommunication, **H**omework, **O**rganization & **R**eading Binder): Each afternoon we will fill out our Assignment Notebook together. This notebook, as well as a homework folder, will be located inside. your fourth grader’s anchor binder. Students will be responsible to keep track of what assignments need to go home to be completed. You are encouraged to check this binder and initial in the Parent Signature Box inside the Assignment Notebook every night.

-Spelling: Spelling lists will come home on Monday and the test will be Friday. Spelling activities will be done during the week, but all students are encouraged to study their spelling lists every night.

-Thursday Folder: Every Thursday your child will come home with a special folder that we call the Thursday Folder. Inside this Thursday Folder will be important notes, the weekly school newsletter and graded schoolwork. Please look through this information and return the empty folder Friday morning.

-Journey through Nebraska Tracker:: In fourth grade we have a travel expedition behavior program. This classroom management system is based on rewarding students for their positive behaviors. Fourth grade students will have a map of Nebraska to show their progress through the year with 4 different stopping points, which allows them special privileges in the classroom. Students will fill out notices for negative behaviors and thus will not receive a sticker on their map.. Once a student receives the needed stickers on their map they will move across the state to their next destination.. I will explain this process in more detail to the class when they arrive; feel free to ask them or myself questions if you have any.

-PBiS: I also follow the building wide positive behavior support system in my classroom. I will hand out tokens for students who show appropriate behaviors; they can then use these tokens in the school store each week.. PAWS tickets will be given out for exceptional behavior. These tickets will be placed in a monthly drawing for prizes.

-Well Managed Schools: I will also be using the Boy’s Town Well Managed Schools method for classroom management. Boy’s Town teaches basic social skills reinforced in a positive way. These skills include getting the teacher’s attention, accepting no for an answer, working in a group, and many more. To find out more information about this program you can visit www.boystown.org.

-Water Bottles: I encourage all students to drink as much water as they can. Keeping the body hydrated is equally as important as eating a well balanced diet. I will allow students drink breaks after specials and recess breaks.. I encourage you to send a water bottle with your child to school each day to increase the amount of water they are consuming and to avoid frequent water breaks.

Once again, Welcome to 4th grade. Let's work together to make it a great year!

Sincerely,

Jayme Hempel