

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2023

Cottonwood School



Upcoming Events

Rocks and Minerals classes
Thursdays 2:00–3:00

9/1: Hike across the road.
Wear/bring hiking clothes/shoes.

9/4- Labor Day/ No School

9/18 Hike at Spanish Peak Trailhead 11:00–3:00. Pack a sack lunch and water bottles in a comfortable backpack! Wear weather-appropriate clothing, hiking shoes, and put on sunscreen in the morning if needed!

9/20 School photos with Amy Burkenpas at 1:00 pm. Please return envelopes with payments after you receive it by Monday, Check out her work at www.amyburkenpas.com and follow directions for proofing the photos later on.

Rocks and Minerals Classes

Rocks and minerals are all around us! They help us to develop new technologies and are used in our everyday lives. Our use of rocks and minerals includes building materials, cosmetics, cars, roads, and appliances. In order to maintain a healthy lifestyle and strengthen the body, humans need to consume minerals daily. Rocks and minerals play a valuable role in natural systems. Studying these natural objects incorporates an understanding of earth science, chemistry, physics, and math. The students will walk away with an understanding of how rocks form, be able to classify rocks, and know their uses. Learn about ores and finish up with a game of Geopardy.

Book Mobile

The Book Mobile will be at Cottonwood on every second Friday again this year 1:30–2:30 starting on 9/15 then 9/29.

The bookmobile travels throughout Gallatin County visiting playgrounds, neighborhoods, assisted living homes, schools, and attending special events. The bookmobile has something for everyone! Bookmobile Services include, checking out books, movies, and more, placing library items on hold/pickup hold items. Need help placing holds to pick up on the Bookmobile? See the Holds Video Demonstration at bozemanlibrary.org.

Please return all book mobile books by that Friday morning to the red bin at our school library, please don't mix it up with our school library books. Make sure your child has separated the books out to be more efficient in returns.

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Classroom News



Lower Elementary

The Lower Elementary classroom students will be settling in the class routines and learning to manage their time to complete their work. In math students will be discovering simple and dynamic addition, and multiplication with our wonderful materials. Grade 1 and 2 will review and practice all learned math concepts daily with Problem of the Day (P.O.D.). We will be working on number sense concepts like number recognition, place value, and word problems. Kindergarten will be learning patterns, writing numbers, and exploring addition with the colored rods and the short bead stairs.

In language we will be studying mechanics of our language starting with capitalization, and will practice our skills in 1st and 2nd grade through Daily Language Review (D.L.R.). 1st grade will learn about nouns and 2nd about pronouns with the grammar boxes and in word study: compound words and suffix are on stage. K students are learning sounds with phonics concepts, rhyming and building with the moveable alphabet. In history we will be looking into fundamental needs: shelter and calendar work. Geography studies will include the world map, continents, and oceans. We will start with Montessori Great Lesson Number One, about the universe and the follow up lessons that go with it.

In science we are starting on "Sound and Light" unit with the FOSS (Full Option Science System, developed at Berkeley) kit. Kindergarten will also be learning about magnetism. We will be having fun looking at parts of the plant and their functions. We will be discussing vertebrates and invertebrates and tying animal and plant studies in with our hike.

Please keep practicing all + / - facts (K within 5, 1st within 10, 2nd within 20) at home to help the memorization of them.

*We will have reading groups with Journey program on Thursdays and **spelling tests** in grade 1 and 2 on Fridays. Look for spelling words list going home on Mondays and practice with your child everyday at home. Say the word then put it into a sentence and say the word again while they write it, then check and correct it. Students should be "sounding out" the words. Keep **reading** with your child every day for 15 minutes to improve decoding skills and fluency! Kindergarten should practice writing letters and numbers correctly, and letter sounds. (see work sent home and practice those letters)*

*Check **Friday Folders** every week to see your child's work and return permission slips etc. by Monday when needed.*

Upper Elementary

Everyone in upper elementary is excited and ready to jump into another year of school! We will spend time practicing our classroom routines and expectations during the first month. Students will be getting used to our morning work period and what it looks like to work independently. During the morning work period, we will do group math and ELA lessons. For math, we will be using the Montessori materials as well as the I-Ready math curriculum. In ELA, we will be using Montessori materials and the Journey's reading curriculum. When students are not in lessons they will be working through assignments on their "checklists".

In math, 3rd grade is starting with reviewing 3-digit number addition and subtraction while 4th grade is starting with reviewing rounding, adding, and subtracting whole numbers. 5th grade will be diving into volume as well as reviewing multiplication and division. All grades will be working on fact fluency.

In ELA, third graders will be looking at characters and event progression in fiction texts as well as sentence structure and nouns. Fourth graders will be doing story structure, plot, and cause and effect with abstract nouns. Fifth graders will look at theme and character development with adjectives. All grades will be working on vocabulary and grammar lessons. Spelling tests will be on Fridays, students may need to practice their words at home throughout the week. Students will also be bringing home a reading log to record "at home" reading. **Students need to return the signed log at the beginning of the next month.**

In science, we are doing the Solar System FOSS kit. Students will get a chance to look into our solar system and the planets.

As we all get back into school please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns!

Ms. Maria and Ms. Kate