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| Information Sheet  |
| **2017/18** |

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| Email & Websites | Cell Phone |
| nicole.lemire@canyonsdistrict.org[www.altaschool.weebly.com](http://www.altaschool.weebly.com)Facebook Page: High on a Mountain Top: The Alta School Instagram: highonamountaintop | 860-488-0640 |
| Alta School/Goldminer’s Daughter  | Granite Elementary  |
| 801-742-0060 (Alta Line)801-826-8614 \* This number has a working voicemail Address:ATTN: Alta School1016 East HWY 210Alta, UT 84092 | 801-826-8575 9760s. 3100e. Sandy, UT 84092 |

**School Hours/Daily Schedule**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| First-Eighth Grade | Kindergarten | Daily Activities  | Friday- Fall & Winter  |
| *Monday-Thursday*8:30-3:00*Friday*8:30-1:30  | *Monday-Thursday*8:30-12:05*Friday*8:30-1:30*Lunch/Recess* is optional for Kindergarten students | 8:30-8:55 Soft Start 9:00-10:00- Rotations 10:05-10:20-Yoga 10:25-11:25- Rotations 11:30-12:00-Content Studies 12:05-12:55 Lunch/Recess1:00-1:20-Read Aloud1:25-2:25-Rotations2:30-2:50-Content Studies2:55-3:00-Clean Up Routine\**Math and Language Arts rotates daily from morning or afternoo*n | Fall-Hiking 12-1:00-Hike \*Weather Permitted Winter-Skiing 11:25-Lunch 11:45-Get Ready12-1:25-Skiing 1:25-1:30 Clean Up/Sign Out  |
|  |  |  \**Friday- 1:20-1:30 Clean up Routine*  |  |

**District Calendar-**Check the Weebly for the Alta School calendar

Write in Alta School dates as you receive them.

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| **September** 4-Labor Day (No School)22-No School (Teacher Work Day)*27-28 Parent/Teacher Conferences***28-Early Dismissal (1:30)**29-No School  | **October**19,20 -Fall Recess (No School)30- No School (Teacher Work Day) | **November**22-24-Thanksgiving Recess  |
| **December**20-Jan. 1- Winter Recess | **January**15-Martin Luther King Jr Day (No School)19-No School (Teacher Work Day) | **February** 19-Presidents’ Day (No School)28-*Parent/Teacher Conferences*  |
| **March**1-*Paernt/Teacher Conferences* **Early Dismissal (1:30)** 2-No School (Teacher Comp. Day)  | April 2-6-Spring Recess | **May**28-Memorial Day (No School)   |
| **June**7-Last Day of School  |  |  |

**A to Zs’ of** 

High on a Mountain Top: We Live•We Learn•We Laugh

 “Look Deep Into Nature and You Will Understand Everything Better”

–Albert Einstein

**Absences:** Daily attendance is necessary to have a successful Alta School experience. Our day begins at 8:30 and dismisses at 3:00. Please make sure you have your child at school on time every day. Students are expected to be unpacked and working by 8:40. If your child is going to be out, please contact me through email, text, or a phone call. You can then send me an email or a written note or doctor’s note on the next day of attendance to put in their file to excuse an absence for an illness. *I need 24 hours notice to send home make work,* otherwise makeup work will be sent home when they return to school. If you are taking a vacation make sure to fill out an Education/Vacation Leave form.

Please refer to the school handbook for other excused absence reasons.

**Art:** Art class will be weaved into our schedule. I'm always looking for volunteers; please let me know if you know anyone who is interested.

**Bathroom Breaks:** Students may leave the classroom at any time to use the restroom. Students put a bathroom pass at their seat, so I'm aware they're using the bathroom. I encourage students to use the facilities during independent rotation time to avoid missing out on direct instruction.

**Birthday treats:** You may bring in a birthday treat to share with the class on your child's birthday. If your child's birthday doesn't fall on a school day, we will celebrate on the next day back in session. If your student has a summer birthday, please plan a date with me to celebrate. This is a parent choice if your child's birthday is to be celebrated at school.

**Book orders:** I will send home periodic Scholastic Book orders. The first one of the school year is a huge promotional time to receive a HUGE amount of bonus points that are then converted into hundreds of free books for our classroom. Even if you only purchase for this one very worthwhile cause, our classroom always appreciates orders, and your student is provided with quality reading material at a manageable price. You can order online using class code: PHQ28

**Brooklyn:** Brooklyn is our class dog. She is springer spaniel and very loving. If your child is scared of dogs or has an allergy please let me know.

**Camping Trip:** Every Fall, we do a back to school camping trip. Please let me know if you can volunteer with organizing meals.

**Classroom Management:** In our class, we follow our class motto: **We Live -Respectfully and Responsibly, We Learn- Effectively and Efficiently, We Laugh-Confidently and Collaboratively**. To encourage students to follow our motto I use individual and group rewards. Examples of these include positive praise, special treats, prize box, no homework coupons, extra recess or soft start time, etc.

We use a mystery motivator system. Students have the opportunity to earn stickers or pulls for their behavior choices throughout the day. They then put a sticker on our class chart, or pull a number for our class chart, if they pull a number with a student sticker on the chart that student earns a prize. If they pull a number with a class sticker, they earn a spin. The spin determines the class reward.

**Communication:** I believe that school is a partnership between the teacher, home, and child. To uphold my end in this partnership, I will communicate with your family regarding classroom events and your child’s progress. Email is a main source of communication, please check emails as often as possible. Watch for our weekly homework sheets sent home on Mondays in student's homework folders. They include important upcoming dates. Homework folders are another form of communication, please check this folder and return it to school daily. This folder will contain all of your child’s school work from the past week and other important news from the school. School work will be sent home on Mondays. Please follow our Facebook, Instagram, and Weebly to see what is happening in the classroom and upcoming events.

**Conferences:** Please make sure you plan for attendance during our two conference sessions for the year. Conferences will be held in September and February/March. This is a great time to hear detailed information regarding your student’s progress and voice any questions/concerns you may have. Please be aware that our conference sessions run for 20 minutes and WE MUST start and finish on time to move on to the next conference. Often our conference schedule runs back to back with carefully planned breaks for the restroom, meals, etc. If you need to schedule additional time, please let me know. It is my goal to have 100% parent attendance for each conference.

**Curriculum** – The Alta School follows the Utah Core Standards, and believes ALL students can access the core standards by the end of the year. Our LA curriculum is Scott Foresman Reading Street for elementary grades and Mirrors and Windows for middle school grades. The Math curriculum is enVision 2.0 for elementary grades and Big Ideas for middle school grades. Each of these programs follows Common Core standards. Although our district uses these programs, they are not the only instructional materials used; I use various materials to supplement these programs and to support students' mastery of the standards. Both Social Studies and Science will be integrated with the LA and Reading curriculum during our content studies time. **Due to the number of students and grades in the winter, the primary curriculum focus is L.A. and math; the content areas are integrated through reading, writing, listening and speaking about grade level topics. Most of our science and social studies explorations, investigations and inquiry/process skills are taught in the fall and spring. Student, content report card grades, in 6th, 7th, and 8th are based on the integrated curriculum.**

**Discipline:** Good conduct is vital for optimal learning at the Alta School!  We begin to develop classroom rules and procedures on the very first day of school.

Our class will be creating a Social Contract. This form of inclusion and student participation holds them accountable individually, as well as whole group, to upholding the Social Contract we design and pledge to follow by signing. Our contract works with our behavior plan.  The Alta School uses Precision Requests - when a student demonstrates an undesirable behavior I make the first request using the student's name, then "please," followed with the goal behavior. After 5-10 seconds if the student complies they get a sticker or a pull, if the student doesn't comply, I repeat the request using the student's name, followed by "I need you to...". After 5-10 seconds if the student complies they get a specific praise if the student still doesn't comply the student is then required to fill out a behavior form. The behavior form offers the child a chance to reflect on his or her behavior and brainstorm how to change it. The behavior form will then be sent home for parents to sign. Repeated/ severe behavior will be followed up with a parent, teacher, student meeting where a solution will be brainstormed for what best fits the student and the behavior.

**Donations:** At the end of homework calendars there will be a section dedicated to needed items in our classroom. If we need (tissues, band aids, pencils. etc.) I will notify you in this spot. Please take the time to look to see if you can help out in this way. It is not required for you to make donations, but I would gladly appreciate any donation you would like to make.

**Field Trips:** We take a few educational field trips each year.  In the past, we have gone to plays and the zoo. Please keep an eye out for information on trips for the school year. I am attempting to finalize some of our dates and field trips towards the start of our school year so you can plan accordingly. However, opportunities arise during the year and cannot always be scheduled in advanced.

**Flexible Seating:** This means that when students are working on their independent activities/rotations, they will have the freedom to find comfortable spaces around the room to work. They might be kneeling, standing, sitting, working on carpet squares, leaning on a pillow with a clipboard, sitting at a desk with an exercise ball or wobble stool. There are many possibilities of what this can look like in a classroom. Research shows that students can focus and do their best work when they are comfortable.

**Gym:** Physical Education is held every Friday. Children must wear sneakers on this day. In the summer and fall, PE includes hiking and outdoor activities. In the winter we will ski for PE, and the spring is mostly inside due to the weather. Skiing takes place on Fridays from 12-1:30 and parent volunteers are vital for success. More information will be sent home before we begin.

**Homework:** Homework helps review and reinforces skills and concepts introduced in the classroom. It also teaches good work habits and responsibility. Reading calendars are sent home on Mondays and due on the following Monday. Please let me know if your child struggled on homework; so, I can reteach the concept. Allow your child to skip a homework problem that is frustrating for them and write me a note in their folder. Homework should take no longer than 30 minutes (20mins reading, 10mins math) If you ever have a question about your child’s homework, please feel free to give me a call or send me an e-mail. There is no consequence for incomplete homework. The homework is to help maintain mastery of a subject and practice a taught concept. There will be random homework check days and students who completed their homework will get a sticker or a pull.

**Independent Reading:** Students will be given time each day to read a “Just Right Book” independently. During this time, students will be practicing the reading skills and strategies they learned.

**Just Right Book:** We are learning how to pick “Just Right Books”. This will be a book that your child can read independently but will also require the use of strategies to figure out some words.

**Journals** – We will begin journal writing on the first day of school.  By the end of the year, you will be amazed at the writing your child will be able to write on his/her own.  At the end of the year, you will have a journal of their writing skills from their grade.

**Kindness:** Students in our classroom are encouraged and expected to treat all members of our class as well as others with kindness and respect. I enforce a bully free classroom.

**Lunch**: Our lunch is from 12:05-12:25. Kindergarten students are welcome to stay for lunch. Send all students to school with a nutritious lunch. Eating more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains (less saturated and trans fats), will improve student focus and academic performance. Students are expected to bring heat ups for the microwave, or a cold lunch option daily. We eat a daily snack; students are allowed to choose one option from their lunch, with younger students please help them choose a quick and easy cleanup snack option. Students may only share food if they have enough to share with the whole class. Contact me if your child is not eating during lunchtime, or if you would not like them to share or receive certain foods.

**Mastery:** “Mastery of the standards is achieved when students demonstrate that they can apply acquired knowledge and skills consistently over time to support future learning.” The Canyons School District decided to move to a mastery based system because it “guarantees curriculum to all students, closes achievement gaps and decreases variation of student outcomes. A focus on mastery increases the likelihood of all students meeting high learning expectations.”

**Music**: Music class is weaved into our schedule. I'm always looking for volunteers!

**Outside time (Recess)** – Your child will get thirty minutes each day for outdoor recess (weather permitting), throughout the year.  Please make sure you dress your child appropriately, as the weather changes. It is recommended to leave a pair sunglasses, sneakers, a sweatshirt, sunblock and snow clothes at school. We try to get outside as much as possible, even when it is snowing.

**Parent Involvement:** Your support of school activities makes your child feel important and sends the message that you value school. If you can volunteer in the classroom, please let me know. We would love to have you be a part of our day! Parent Involvement provides the support your student needs from home to further enhance their educational experience.

**Parties**: We call them “celebrations” and limit them to a couple each year.  However, there will be other special days when we can share some simple treats. Please look for notes in homework folders, and on our Weebly for information about our classroom celebrations.

P**.T.A.:** Each year this organization works hard to provide activities and essentials for our school. Please show your support by becoming PTA member. You can sign up at www.granitepta.com and communicate through Instagram: granitepta or Facebook: Granite Elementary PTA. Please sign up for a membership as the Granite PTA donates money to our classroom every year.

**Questions?** : Please call, text, or email. I am easier to reach in the mornings and the afternoons until 4:30. I will return any messages as soon as possible. I am much quicker to respond to an email because of the flexibility it offers, so therefore I do tend to prefer this form of communication.

**Reading:** It is my goal for every child to leave the Alta School reading and writing at grade level.  We may be at different levels- but we should all be reading and writing daily!  We will be working hard every day, and you can help so much by reading with your child every night.  I will send home a reading log so you can record the books you read with your child.  Our goal is to read at least 20 minutes, five nights a week.

**Report Cards** : Report cards will be sent home three times a year.  You may keep the copy of the report card. Report cards for Elementary and Middle are scored on a mastery based grading system.

**Rotations:** During the day students will 'rotate' and complete various literacy and math tasks. This is a way for students to improve and work on various skills that are being taught. It is also a time for me to pull grade levels, small focus groups, one on one instruction, or just indirect observation of the students during skill work. We can focus on fact practice, problem-solving, journal writing, group work, and differentiated skill practice during this time each day. When students are not in a lesson with me, we refer to this as their independent work time. Each activity should take 15-20 minutes, and then students get a brain break before the move to their next task.

**Snacks**: Due to our lunch being late on our daily schedule, your child will need a snack for the mid-morning.  I encourage healthy snacks that are convenient for your child to eat.  We encourage lots of water.

**Soft Start:** "Students deserve to be invited into learning, not forced into it. Soft starts are an invitation into the day. Think about the mental, emotional, and social demands on our students on a typical day of school. When we provide a soft start, we are inviting students to prepare their brains to meet those demands. When thinking about mental, emotional, and social states of our students, there is not an equal or balanced starting point. This is the importance of offering choice and space. Soft starts allow students to practice mindfulness and habits of well-being that will serve them for the rest of their lives."-Small Steps Blog

To improve engagement and focus during learning times, students are not asked to get going right away; instead, they are allowed to choose from various classroom games and manipulatives as a 'soft' way to enter the day. All of these activities benefit the strengthening of our classroom community and allow me to see how students are socially interacting with each other.

**Spelling/Word Study**: Each week we will be learning new high-frequency words (K-2), along with a spelling pattern

(K-5). During the week we will be doing daily activities with these patterns to allow the students to become quite familiar with them. The students will be assessed on these patterns on Fridays. Spelling lists are not sent home, as children are not expected to memorize words but to learn sound-spelling patterns. Grades 3-8 focus on word parts to enhance their vocabulary and comprehension.

 **Supplies:** Please refer to the suggested list of supplies.  If your child runs out of something, I will notify you so that you can send in a replacement.  If you would like to donate something to our classroom, refer to the wish list on the homework sheet.

**Take Home Folders:** Your child will be given a homework folder at the beginning of the school year. This folder will provide the main link between home and school. We take time each day to prepare our folders for home by putting homework papers and anything that needs to be returned in the “Bring Back” pocket. Other papers that are no longer needed at school are put in the “Stays Home” pocket. This is a great organizational tool for your child. Please help your child and review and clean out papers each night. Monday night is when the work from the previous week is sent home. Assessments will be sent home in separately, so you don't have to weave through practice work to see how they are doing on a skill. Use the following code for grades- **E-Exceed Expectations, M-Meets Expectations, P-Progressing towards Expectations, B-Below Expectations.**

Expectations are based on mastery of the skill not on student effort. Student effort is part of their learning skill grades.

**Toys:** Please don’t allow your child to bring toys to school.  These can become a distraction in our classroom and are often misplaced. I will collect toys and keep them until a parent can pick them up if they become a problem.

**Unique:** Each student is unique. Children come with a variety of personalities and learning preferences. Some children are strong visual learners and can see a word once or twice and remember it forever. Other children are better auditory learners and can easily hear and blend sounds to figure out many words. Some children need a lot of structure and guidance; other children are very self-directed and learn best when they can choose topics about which they want to read and write. In our classroom, various instructional techniques and methods will be used to help all students be successful and to meet the individual needs of each student.

**Volunteers:** We love to have volunteers to help us out in the classroom.  If you would like to volunteer or know someone who would like to volunteer, please let me know through an email, text, or phone call. I appreciate your support!

**X-periences!** I know that the students will have many fun and interesting learning experiences this year! The Alta School is a place for students to enjoy school and become lifelong learners!!

**Yoga:** Every morning we do a quick yoga routine and meditation. This is an opportunity for students to relax, and reset. “To be successful, creative learners and compassionate, respectful, and self-aware human beings, children must be given opportunities to draw their awareness away from our overwhelming, chaotic world. In doing so, they are brought into the present moment, a place where they can pause, truly hear and feel, and reflect and learn.”- Lisa Flynn, Founder of ChildLight Yoga

This will be a wonderful **YEAR**, and it will **ZOOM** by! I am so happy to have your child in my class, and I know we are going to have a fantastic year!! Thank you.

**ZZZ’s** : Please make sure your child gets the appropriate rest. Sleep deprivation causes lack of focus, and although students may physically be in the classroom, they may not be obtaining the information.

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|  | Parent Information Sheet  |
| **2017/18** | Student Name: |

**Contact Info:**

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| Parents/Guardians Names (First & Last): | E-mail Address(es) |
|  |  |
| Work Phone Number(s) | Cell Phone Number(s) |
| Mother’s :Father’s:  | Mother’s:Father’s:  |
| Check one: I prefer to be contacted via □ phone □ e-mail □ either  |

**Any Additional Information**

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| --- |
| Let me know how I can best help your child succeed. |

**Volunteer Information:**

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| Please let me know if you can volunteer in the classroom, and fill in /circle the time that works best for you **□ Monday □ Thursday** **□ Tuesday □ Friday** **□ Wednesday** Times: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 9:00-10:00, 10:30-11:30, 12:00-1:00 (recess), 1:30-2:30 |

**□ I have a copy of the Alta School Information Sheet and A to Z’s of the Alta School**

**□ I am aware of how to contact Miss Lemire**

**□ I am aware I need to check the Weebly & email for school information.**

**□ I allow pictures of my students to be posted to the Alta School Facebook, Instagram, and Weebly**

**Thank you for the continued support, it is appreciated considerably!**

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_