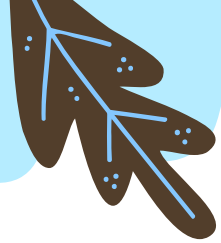




Curriculum Night 2024-2025

Cunningham 3rd/4th CATS



Hello! I'm...

Mrs. Cunningham



I have been teaching for 21 years and joined the Ryan family in CUSD in 2007. Since then, I received my Gifted Endorsement and have taught 2nd-4th grade, all in the CATS (gifted) Program. This will also be my third time teaching a 3rd/4th combo class and my first time teaching 6th grade math.

Teaching Philosophy

I feel that we only see the surface of what a child is able to accomplish. My job is to go below the surface to find all of the other amazing things that will help the child become a successful, confident person. Students need to be well-rounded and have their social/emotional and academic needs reached. Hopefully, when they leave my classroom they will love themselves as well as love learning!

Hobbies

- Spending time with my family
- Crafting/Designing
- Watching sports
- Going to concerts

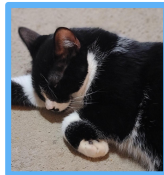
I grew up in many different places because my father was in the Air Force. I attended the University of Florida to earn my degrees in education and moved to Arizona in 2003.

I am married my wonderful husband, Ben. We have 2 boys, Maeson (14) and Sean (11), and Claire (22), from his first marriage. We also have our dog, Zylo, and cats, Zavi and Axel.

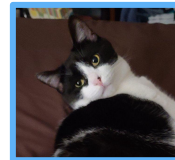
The Whole Family



Maeson



Zavi

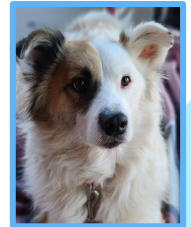


Axel

Sean



Zylo



Contact Information

(480) 224-3265 (direct to voicemail)

cunningham.gillian@cusd80.com
(email and Parent Square are the best)

School Website: <https://www.cusd80.com/Domain/3598>



@ryanroyals3rd
@ryanroyals4th
@ryanroyals_cats

Other Gifted Team Members



Ms. Sherwood

5th Grade



Mrs. Ryle

6th Grade

My Family



My son and daughter-in-law love to go to Fan Fusion and dress up in costumes.

This year is my 20th year of teaching. I have taught in 4th and 6th grade general education classes as well as 4th, 5th, and 6th grades in Gifted. By co-teaching with Mrs. Cunningham this year will be my first year teaching 3rd grade gifted.

I am the kind of person who thrives on feedback. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns.

Ms. Sherwood



Hobbies

- Playing Minecraft
- Sewing Clothes & Costumes
- Spending time with my grandson

Contact



Information

Ms. Cynthia Sherwood
(480) 224-3264 (direct to voicemail)
sherwood.cynthia@cusd80.com (best)

Mrs. Ryle



Fun Facts

I love animals, traveling, eating foods from around the world, and chocolate!



Contact

Information

Mrs. Tanya Ryle
(480) 224-3262 (direct to voicemail)
ryle.tanya@cusd80.com (best)

My Daughters



I am a native to New Mexico and moved to Phoenix about 10 years ago. I live with my two college age daughter, Sophie & Eli, and my husband of over 20 years, Jeremiah.

This is my 17th year of teaching and my 9th year in gifted education.

In our classroom, I work to foster a sense of community. We work together and we work hard for everyone's benefit. I desire to meet my students wherever they are at and challenge them to continue to grow. In order to do this I work to create an environment where everyone feels safe to take risks.

The background features a light blue and white color scheme with stylized illustrations. On the left, there are dark brown leaves with light blue veins and a light blue leaf. In the center, there is a white pencil, a white palette with green and blue plus signs, and a white protractor. On the right, there are dark brown leaves with light blue veins and a light blue leaf. The letters 'A', 'B', and 'C' are scattered throughout the design.

Curriculum

- Standards taught
- Curricular Materials
- Combo information

Curricular Materials



Math

Open Up Resources
Eureka Math
Supplemental Materials



Language Arts

Book Studies
Into Reading
Write From the Beginning
Thinking Maps
Supplemental Materials



Social Sciences

Integrated Units
Engineering is Elementary (EIE)
Supplemental Materials




Reading- Taught by Ms. Sherwood

Novel Studies

Students will be reading a variety of novels that help them develop critical thinking skills.

Some books will be accessed digitally through the HMH textbook series. The stories listed to the right are actual novels.

All books or novels are available here at school and have been vetted for appropriateness and relevance to our grade level standards. Purchasing the novels is not required.



One and Only Ivan


This book is available digitally. Buying this book is optional! We will be reading this book later in the 1st quarter.

Healer of the Water Monster

This book connects to our 4th grade social studies unit about Native Americans. This book is written by a Navajo author. The author uses the Navajo creation story as the basis for this fictional story about a boy learning about his Navajo heritage.

Blood on the River

This book also ties to 4th grade social studies. This one is related to the establishment of the Jamestown colony in the early 1600's. An orphan boy is indentured to a gentleman and learns the valuable lessons of love over fear, cooperation, and teamwork.





Math- Taught by Mrs. Cunningham

3rd Graders (4th Grade Standards)

Factors and Multiples
Fraction Equivalence and Comparison
Extending Operations to Fractions
Decimals
Multiplicative Comparison and Measurement
Multiplying and Dividing Multi-Digit Numbers
Angles and Angle Measurement
Properties of Two-Dimensional Shapes

4th Graders (5th Grade Standards)


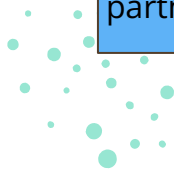
Finding Volume
Fractions as Quotients and Fraction Multiplication by a Whole Number
Multiplying and Dividing Fractions
Multiple Multi-Digit Numbers Using the Standard Algorithm
Division Up to Four-Digits by Two-Digits
Place Value Patterns and Decimal Operations
Shapes on the Coordinate Plane

Instruction

The students will learn a variety of strategies to help them solve problems. Much of the learning will take place through discussions and explorations with partners or in small groups.

Intervention













All students will be monitored for gaps in their learning of the math standards. Interventions will be used to help students build any of the foundational skills that they may be missing.



Social Sciences



3rd Grade

Semester 1			Semester 2			
Unit Topics			Unit Topics			
Growing Arizona Crosscutting Concept: System And System Models Essential Question: What are the rights, responsibilities and opportunities for an Arizona citizen?  	Getting To Know Arizona Crosscutting Concept: Cause and Effect Essential Question: How do natural resources and human developments affect living organisms and the land?  	Arizona's First People Crosscutting Concept: Structure and Functions Essential Question: How do living things survive and thrive using the resources around them?  	Expansion and Migration Crosscutting Concept: Cause and Effect Essential Question: How is life and land impacted by migration to a new area?  	Light and Sound Crosscutting Concept: Energy and Matter Essential Question: How does light and sound expand our understanding of how the world works? 	Arizona Statehood Crosscutting Concept: Cause and Effect Essential Question: What events contributed to Arizona becoming the 48th state? 	
Arizona History and Social Science Standards Key:						
	Anchor Standards	Disciplinary Skills and Processes	Civics	Economics	Geography	History
Essential Standards Science and Engineering Practices			Core Ideas for Knowing Science		Core Ideas for Using Science	
	Ask questions and define problems Develop and use models Plan and carry out investigations Analyze and interpret data		Use mathematics and computational thinking Construct explanations and design solutions Engage in argument from evidence Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information		U1: Explaining phenomena using investigations	
					U2: Applications of science to solve problems	
					U3: Understanding Implications of Science	












*Integrated into Language Arts and may not be taught in this order



Social Sciences



Fourth Grade

Semester 1			Semester 2			
Unit Topics			Unit Topics			
Mesoamerican Civilizations Crosscutting Concept: Stability and Change Essential Question: How does the environment drive change in species and influence human culture?  	Natural Disasters Crosscutting Concept: Systems and System Models Essential Question: How do we use our understanding of natural hazards to design solutions to minimize their negative effects? 	American Indians Crosscutting Concept: Cause and Effect Essential Question: How did environmental conditions experienced by the early Native Americans shape their way of life?  	Forces and Energy Crosscutting Concept: Energy and Matter Essential Question: How is electricity used to better our world? 	European Explorers Crosscutting Concept: Stability and Change Essential Question: What factors drive change amongst people?  	Colonization Crosscutting Concepts: Systems and System Model Essential Question: What helped shape colonial life? 	
Arizona History and Social Science Standards Key:						
	Anchor Standards	Disciplinary Skills and Processes	Civics	Economics	Geography	History
Essential Standards Science and Engineering Practices			Core Ideas for Knowing Science		Core Ideas for Using Science	
	Ask questions and define problems Develop and use models Plan and carry out investigations Analyze and interpret data		Use mathematics and computational thinking Construct explanations and design solutions Engage in argument from evidence Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information		Physical Science	U1: Explaining phenomena using investigations
					Earth And Space Science	U2: Applications of science to solve problems
					Life Science	U3: Understanding Implications of Science

*Integrated into Language Arts and may not be taught in this order



Examples of Standards Progressions

4.NBT.B.5

Multiply a whole number of up to four digits by a one-digit whole number, and multiply two two-digit numbers, using strategies based on place value and the properties of operations.

4.W.7

Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

4.RI.2

Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

5.NBT.B.5: Fluently multiply multi-digit whole numbers using a standard algorithm.

5.W.7

Conduct short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic and to answer a specific question.

5.RI.2

Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.



Testing

- **Classroom tests:**
 - Given at the level the content is being taught
 - There will be quizzes/check ins throughout the unit and End of Unit Tests
- **District tests for Math and ELA:**
 - Renaissance (August, December, and April/May)
 - Begins on grade level but adapts to the student
- **State tests given on grade level:**
 - DIBELS (August, December, and May)
 - 3rd grade only
 - AASA (April)



General School and Classroom Information



Schedule



Mrs. Cunningham's Schedule (3rd/4th Grade CATS)

8:30-8:40	Morning Routine
8:40-9:20	Specials
9:20-10:40	Daily Warm-up/Math
10:40-11:00	D.E.A.R./Buddies
11:00-11:10	Writing Mini Lesson
11:10-11:25	4th Grade Recess (3rd grade Focus)
11:25-12:10	Writing/Language*
12:10-12:50	Recess/Lunch**
12:50-1:10	Read Aloud
1:10-2:10	Reading* (w/ Sherwood)
2:10-2:20	Pack-up
2:20-2:40	3rd Grade Recess (4th Grade Focus)
2:40-3:00	Study Hall

*Science/Social Studies embedded into Language Arts


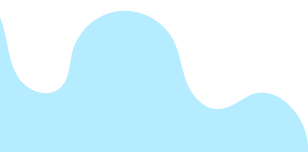
**3rd Grade Recess (12:10-12:27) Lunch (12:30-12:50)

**4th Grade Lunch (12:10-12:30) Recess (12:30-12:50)

*Students are with their grade level peers for all recesses. They will also attend any grade level field trips or special events.

Specials:

Mon.	Technology
Tues.	Library
Wed.	Music
Thurs.	PE
Fri.	Rotation




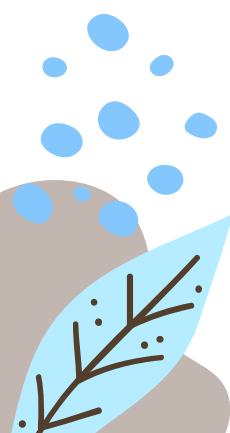


Absences/Tardiness

Please try to keep absences and tardiness to a minimum

If your child is going to be absent, please notify the front office by calling the attendance line (480-224-3204).

If possible, also send me an email to let me know that your child will be absent.



If you are going on a trip and your child will be missing a number of days, please let me know at least one week in advance so that I can pull work together for while they are absent.

Class Rule

No one has the right to interfere
with the learning, safety, or
well-being of others.

We discussed how every rule will fall into
one of the three categories of learning,
safety, or well-being.

Homework

- Homework will be assigned on a weekly basis.
 - The choice board will be posted in Google Classroom each Friday and is due the following Friday.
 - Homework will practice what was studied throughout the week and review information to ensure your child continues to build on existing skills.
 - Students are to complete one square* for each subject.
 - Students will share one completed activity, of their choice, with the class, or small group, to practice speaking and listening skills.

*You may have your child complete more than one square, but it is not necessary.

*Sample Homework

Name: _____

Choice Board

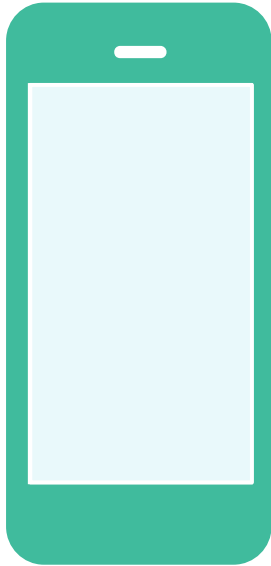
Due: 2/27/23

Please choose at least one choice from each row. Please turn your homework in on Monday!

Math		Math	
<p>Create your own Comparing Numbers Monsters/Creatures (see picture on next page). You should create 3 monsters: Greater Than Monster/Creature, Less Than Monster/Creature, and Equal To Monster/Creature. You also need to create at least 14 fractions for the monsters/creatures to compare.</p>		<p>Play the fraction flip and compare game that is attached to the homework assignment in Google Classroom by yourself or with someone else. Use the recording sheet to keep track of your problems and answers.</p> <p>* You can use Uno cards, playing cards or any other kind of number cards.</p>	
Social Sciences		Social Sciences	
<p>Research and then write a one paragraph explanation of how a rainbow forms.</p>	<p>Collect different examples of <i>transparent</i>, <i>translucent</i>, and <i>opaque</i> materials. Create a modern art sculpture/picture using these items. Be prepared to share and explain why you selected each type of material with your class.</p>	<p>Design an acrostic for the terms <i>opaque</i>, <i>transparent</i> and <i>translucent</i>.</p> <p>Example of an acrostic: Cuddly Active Tumbling</p>	
Language Arts		Language Arts	
<p>Make a Flow Map about the book you are reading at home. Your Flow Map should include at least seven events that took place in the book. They should be in chronological order.</p>	<p>Write a letter to one of the characters in the story. Talk to them about events that happened in the story. You can also ask them questions about the events that happened.</p> <p>*Remember to use correct letter format</p>	<p>Create an illustration of the cover of the book you are reading at home using color. Attach a paragraph describing the book you are reading. Please include a topic sentence, at least three details and a conclusion.</p>	



Cell Phones and Smart Watches



- These items should not be used by students while on campus.
 - If students need to get a message to parents, they should use a school phone or have the teacher send an email.
 - If parents need to get a message to students, they should email the teacher or call the front office.

Classroom Celebrations

- We will have several class celebrations throughout the school year. More information will be sent before each celebration.
- Birthdays will be celebrated on or near your child's birthday.
 - Students may bring in treats or goodie bags.
 - Food treats must be store bought
 - It is preferred for the child to carry it to the classroom

Other Information

- ECA Fees
 - \$50 and assigned through Infinite Campus
 - Should be paid before your child goes on any field trips
 - You can still make a tax credit donation of up to \$200 for a single person and \$400 for a married couple
- Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT)
 - Please sign and return the BYOT form if your child would like to bring their Kindle, iPad, etc. to school for educational purposes

- **Mindfulness**
 - We use various websites and activities to help encourage our students to become more aware of their emotional and mental state.
 - Campus Mindfulness Room
- **Buddies**
 - We will be pairing up with the 2 specialized classes
 - Students will go to these classrooms once per week
- **Google Classroom**
 - Will be used frequently throughout the year
 - Make sure your child has access at home, if possible



- **Breakfast/Lunch**
 - Breakfast will cost \$2.35
 - Lunch will cost \$3.35
 - Adult/Non-Student \$4.00
 - A la carte items may be sold at various prices
 - At this point, you may eat lunch with your child(ren) only
- **Before School**
 - Do not drop off children before 8:10
 - Students are able to play before school from 8:10-8:25.
 - 3rd-6th grade will be able to use the basketball courts and grass areas
 - We line up between the swing sets by the ramada on the playground





Thank You!

Please contact me by email or
through Parent Square if you
have any questions.

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