Dear Parents and Students,

My name is Gina Braathen and I love teaching 4th grade! I look forward to a fun-filled year in our 4th grade PM Tops class.

Let me tell you a little about myself. I grew up on a farm in North Dakota. I have a Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education from Mayville State University and a Master’s Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from UNLV. I enjoy hiking, traveling, and reading. I have taught in North Dakota, Nevada, and now Arizona. This is my 21st year of teaching and my 8th year teaching at EDUPRIZE. I love teaching at this A+ School.

We will be exploring four 9-week cottages this school year. Our 4th grade cottages are Arizona Highways, Reptile Ranch, Grand Canyon Marketplace, and Conservation Plantation. Each cottage is full of hands-on learning experiences that teach the Core Curriculum Science and Social Studies Standards.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you at our Open House on July 20th! The suggested time for our Open House is from 3:30-4:15pm, but I will be available throughout the day if this time doesn’t work. The Open House is your chance to see your classroom, meet your classmates, pick up important papers including carpool information, drop off your school supplies, and have your picture taken by Miss Braathen. Parents and students will have their pictures taken by me. 😊 The school planner is $6/child/year. Please bring in a check written to EDUPRIZE PTN or cash for this. I will give your child their planner on the first day of school. Please see the back of this letter for a list of suggested school supplies that you will need, as well as wish list items for the class.

Parent helpers are strongly encouraged and are always welcome in our room to enhance and facilitate our learning. During the Open House, I will have a quick form for you to fill out letting me know when you would like to volunteer. I do ask however, that you wait until after the first two weeks of school before you start volunteering. This will give our class a chance to establish our routines and procedures at the start of the school year.

Our first day of school is Wednesday, July 22nd. In order for you to maintain enrollment at EDUPRIZE, you must be on time and attend this day. During Open House I will let you know where our class will be meeting outside. On the first day, I will be outside to meet and greet everyone! For the 4th Grade P.M. TOPS Schedule, school begins at 11:00 a.m. and ends at 4:10 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please make sure your child is not dropped off before 10:45 a.m. Students should be at our table ready to be picked up by 10:55 am.

Please email me this summer with the following information; child’s full name, birthdate, parent/guardian names, email addresses for newsletters/communication, phone numbers, mailing address, and any student allergies, and your child’s favorite candy choices. Also, please let me know if you plan on coming to Open House. Thank you!

I look forward to getting to know all of you and I am sure that we will have a fabulous year of laughter and learning ahead of us. I will be sure to keep you posted on our activities and parent involvement opportunities through emails/newsletters during the year. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me any time. I would like to thank you in advance for your support and encouragement. Enjoy the rest of your vacation and I will see you soon!

Respectfully,

Miss Braathen
(480) 888-1610
gina.braathen@eduprizeschools.net
Suggested School Supplies for Miss Braathen’s Class
EDUPRIZE School 2015-2016

Please bring the following supplies to Open House on Monday, July 20th, 2015 from 3:30-4:15 pm. There are always a lot of great Back-To-School specials in the Sunday paper. Please know that since we are a TOPS room, we share many supplies.

**Individual student school supplies labeled with your child's name (please keep until the first day of school):**
- A small pencil box which includes the following items to be labeled:
  - 3 packs of pre-sharpened pencils /or
  - 1 box of mechanical pencils – replacing pencil lead will have to be done at home nightly
  - Thin and chisel tip dry erase markers
  - Ear buds (for computer usage – if you have a small Altoids container, those work great to keep ear buds safe)
  - (1) Pair of scissors - pointed
  - (1) Box of thin colored markers
  - (1) Box of colored pencils
  - (1) Box of crayons
  - (4) Highlighters – different colors

- (1) 2 inch white plastic view binder with pockets on the inside and outside cover
- (1) 1 inch white plastic view binder with pockets on the inside and outside cover
- (1) Zipper pencil pouch for inside plastic binder
- (2) Composition Notebooks
- (4) Pocket folders (with prongs-red, yellow, blue, green preferably)
- (2) College ruled spiral notebooks (single subject)

**School supplies to be shared as a class or passed out and used as needed – please do not label the following (bring these to open house):**
- (1) Package of thin Dry Erase Markers
- (1) Package of chisel tip Dry Erase Markers (multi-colored) and a sock/eraser.
- (1) Package of Crayola broad line (thick) markers
- (1) Package black fine point Sharpie markers
- (1) Package black fine ultra fine point Sharpie markers
- (3) Boxes of PRE-SHARPENED #2 pencils
- (4) Glue sticks
- (1) Package of water color paints (at least 8 colors)
- (1) Package sheet protectors
- (2) Packages wide ruled notebook paper
- (2) Reams of white copy paper &/or (1) Ream of cardstock (white)
- (1) Box of tissues
- (2-3) Paper towel rolls
- (2) Containers of Clorox Wipes

Please be prepared to purchase a student planner. The total cost for the both of these will be $6.00. Fee envelopes will be handed out and collected on this day so we can use the planners on the first day of school.

**WISH LIST ITEMS**

Here is a list of extra supplies that our class will need. I understand that back to school time is also an expensive time so please do not feel obligated to buy the following items right now. However, if you are able to, it would be GREATLY appreciated. Thank you so much for your help.
- Clorox anti-bacterial wipes/baby wipes – we will need this throughout the year
- Ziploc bags – any sizes
- Dry Erase Markers
- Pre-sharpened Pencils
- Colored Card Stock
- Ream of Astro-Bright paper/colored copy paper
- Gift card to Walmart/Staples for items I will purchase throughout the year.
- Fun items for our quarterly class auction
- black construction paper (8X11)

Feel free to team up with another parent to buy any above shared and wish list items in bulk. I do not expect you to buy everything listed at the beginning of the year, as this is a very costly time for families. But, I really appreciate any help you can give to our class, whether it is through donations, volunteering, etc. Thank you!!