

# Welcome to Second Grade!

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*Welcome to Second Grade! We are very excited about this school year and we hope that you are, too! We are honored to be able to spend this year with your children, getting to know them better as we learn together. We know that this year will be a great learning experience for your child, and we look forward to the days to come!*

## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

**Why I Assign Homework:** I believe that homework is important because it is a valuable aid in helping students make the most out of their experience in school. Homework is used in reinforcing what has been taught in class, prepares students for upcoming lessons, teaches responsibility, and helps students develop positive study habits.

**When I Assign Homework:** Homework will be assigned Monday through Thursday nights. Second Graders can expect approximately thirty minutes of homework per night. Spelling tests will be given every Friday. In addition to their homework, Second Graders should spend fifteen to twenty minutes reading every night.

**Students' Homework Responsibilities:** I expect that students will do their best job on their homework. I know that they will give their homework their best effort and ask for help when necessary. Additionally, I expect that all assignments will be turned in on time.

**Parents' Homework Responsibilities:** Parents play an important role in making homework a positive experience for their children. Therefore, I ask that parents make homework a top priority, provide necessary supplies and a quiet homework environment, set a daily homework time, and provide support.

**If Students Do Not Complete Homework:** If students choose not to do their homework, a homework slip will be given for any missed assignments. If a student receives a homework slip, the homework needs to be completed and the slip needs to be signed and returned the next day.

## **DISCIPLINE**

Every Second Grade student's goal is to **"Go for Green!"** Our discipline plan is based on the idea that discipline should be a positive experience. We strive to live by the Golden Rule – *treat others the way you would want to be treated*. This discipline system is a way to help the students take personal responsibility for actions and is an acknowledgement of good behavior.

### **Classroom Rules:**

1. Listen carefully.
2. Follow directions.
3. Work quietly. Do not disturb others who are working.
4. Respect others. Be kind with your words and actions.
5. Respect school and personal property.
6. Work and play safely.

### **Consequences:**

If a student chooses not to follow a classroom rule:

- Blue card – Student is given a warning
- Yellow card – Student will bring home a "Yellow Light Day" slip
- Red card – Student is asked to complete a Think Sheet describing their action(s) and how they could make a better choice next time.
- Purple card – Parent is called for a conference

### **Rewards:**

Star on card pocket – Special treat  
Whole Class Green – Class receives five marbles in the marble jar  
Full Marble Jar – Class receives a surprise ☺

## **GRADING POLICY AND REPORT CARDS**

- Completed papers will be graded using percentages or points.  
Second Graders receive Report Cards three times per year - December, March, and June
- Parent Conferences are scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Due to First Reconciliation on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, I will be scheduling conferences for second grade after school during the week of November 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Grading Scale for Second Grade:**

91 – 100%	=	O
81 – 90%	=	G
70 – 80%	=	S
Below 69%	=	NI

No + or – on report card; i.e. No G+ or O-

**ITBS Testing** will take place beginning September 28<sup>th</sup>. This is the first year that your child will be taking these standardized tests. I will be sending home a letter prior to testing with all of the information you may need.

## **PARENT COMMUNICATION**

Once a week (usually Mondays), students will bring home an envelope of completed/returned work. Please sign, date the folder, and have your child return it to school the next day. I hope you will enjoy going through these papers with your child to see what they have accomplished!

## **ABSENCES**

- If a student is absent from school, please be sure that he/she returns to school with a note explaining why the student was absent. Please make sure that the absence note also includes the date and a parent signature.
- If your child is absent from school and you would like to have their work sent home, please let the Office know during the day and I will be sure to have their assignments prepared and ready to be picked up at the **end** of the school day.

## **SNACKS**

Please be sure to send a **nutritious** snack with your child **each day**. *Please do not send candy to school for any reason, including candy as birthday treats.*

## **BIRTHDAYS**

The Second Graders would love to help your child celebrate his/her birthday! If you would like to bring in a treat for the class, please let me know the day before. Please be sure that all of the birthday treats are the same, (i.e. flavor, color, decoration, etc.) so that no one feels left out. The Birthday child may wear appropriate free dress to school on his/her birthday. *(Please see Student/Parent Handbook, pages 12-13)*

*A note about summer birthdays:* Please refer to the School Master Calendar for the Summer Birthday free dress day (June 4<sup>th</sup>).

## **UNIFORM**

Please refer to the Student/Parent Handbook, page 10 for all uniform questions. Uniform violations will be distributed for not following uniform policies (i.e. nail polish, socks, hair, shoes). Please sign and return this violation as soon as possible.

## **READING**

It is highly recommended that your child read fifteen to twenty minutes per night, **in addition** to their assigned homework. The Language Arts curriculum for Second Grade focuses not only on building reading skills, phonemic awareness, and word recognition, but stresses the story grammar elements – *setting, characterization, problems, attempts to solve problems or sequence of events, and a resolution of the problem or conclusion*. I encourage you to use these story grammar elements when your child is reading at home. Additionally, please ask your child questions about what he/she is reading to help increase reading comprehension skills.

## **HANDWRITING**

We will begin cursive handwriting in January. The first four months of the school year are focused on refining student's printing skills. Please **do not** begin handwriting with your children until we begin in the classroom.

## **AUXILIARY CLASSES**

**Science** (Mrs. Lodwig) – Tuesday and Friday

**Computers** (Mrs. Svolos) – Tuesday and Friday

**P.E.** (Coach Brandon) – Thursday and Friday (students may wear P.E. uniforms both days)

**Music** (Mrs. Enos) – Monday and Wednesday

**Art** (Mrs. Nadsady) – Friday

**Spanish** (Mrs. Serrano) – Wednesday and Thursday

**Library** – Thursday

Additionally, we will be attending Mass as a class every Friday. (Because it is a P.E. day, students may wear their P.E. uniform. Full uniform only needs to be worn on a whole School Mass day. Please see the Master Calendar for dates.)

## **SACRAMENTS**

Our Religion Program this year begins discussing belonging to a family. We talk about belonging to an immediate family and belonging to God's family. Students learn that they became part of God's family when they were Baptized. We discuss making choices and forgiveness, which is the heart of Reconciliation. This year, First Reconciliation will take place on Thursday, December 3, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Prior to receiving this Sacrament, there will be a mandatory Parent Meeting on Thursday, November 5, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. (More details will be sent home at a later date.)

Following the Sacrament of Reconciliation, students will begin preparation for receiving their First Holy Communion, something we are all looking forward to. Please mark your calendars for the mandatory Parent First Eucharist Meetings: February 4, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall and March 4, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hall or Church. Again, more information will be sent home at a later date.

This year, we will again be having mandatory rehearsals for First Communion Masses. If your child will be receiving Communion during the weekend of April 17-18, your rehearsal will be on Thursday, April 15, 2010, sometime between 6:00-8:00 p.m. If your child will be receiving Communion during the weekend of April 24-25, your rehearsal will be on April 22, 2010, sometime between 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Once again, we are blessed to have a First Communion Retreat, which will take place on Friday, April 16, 2010 in the Parish Hall. I will need many volunteers to help with this special day. A letter will be sent home later in the year.

Lastly, the Second Grade will be hosting a School Mass on Friday, May 14, 2010. All of the Second Grade students will be participating in this Mass. Additionally, students will come to school dressed in their First Communion attire. Our group picture will be taken after Mass. Again, more information will be sent home in May.

In order to help cover the costs of Sacramental Preparation (i.e. First Communion Retreat, crafts, and copying), a \$35.00 Sacrament Fee is due on Monday, March 1, 2010.

**And for those who would like to see this all listed out in order....**

First Reconciliation Parent Meeting	Thursday, November 5, 2009	7:30 p.m.	Hall
First Reconciliation	Thursday, December 3, 2009	7:00 p.m.	Church
First Eucharist Parent Meeting (#1)	Thursday, February 4, 2010	7:30 p.m.	Hall
Sacrament Fee (\$35) due	Wednesday, March 1, 2010		
First Eucharist Parent Meeting (#2)	Thursday, March 4, 2010	7:30 p.m.	Hall/Church
First Communion Rehearsal for April 17-18, 2010 weekend	Thursday, April 15, 2010	between 6:00-8:00 p.m.	Church
First Communion Retreat	Friday, April 16, 2010	during school hours	Hall
First Communion Weekend #1	Saturday, April 17, 2010	5:00 p.m.	Church
	Sunday, April 18, 2010	8:30, 10:00, 12:00	Church
First Communion Rehearsal for April 24-25, 2010 weekend	Thursday, April 22, 2010	between 6:00-8:00 p.m.	Church
First Communion Weekend #2	Saturday, April 24, 2010	5:00 p.m.	Church
	Sunday, April 25, 2010	8:30, 10:00, 12:00	Church
Second Grade Class Mass (class picture to follow)	Friday, May 14, 2010	8:30 a.m.	Church

***Thank you for your involvement and support this year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. Every day, I look forward to spending time with your precious treasures – thank you for entrusting them to me!***