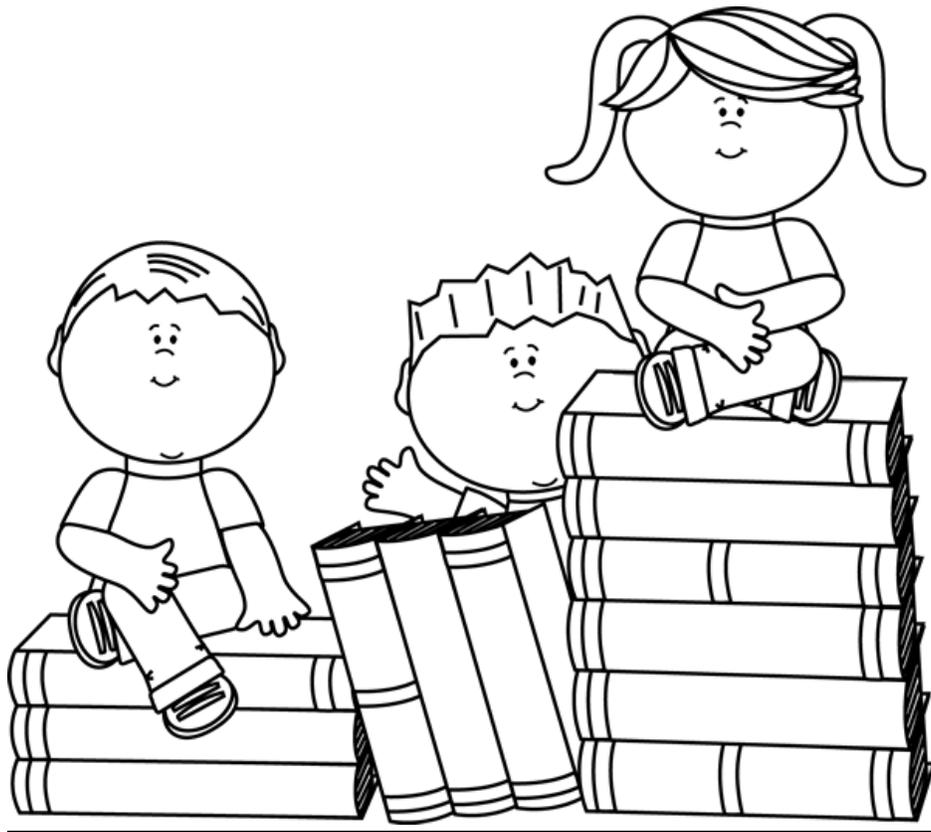


2nd Grade Handbook

2017-2018



Literacy Program

Our district uses a literacy program which consists of these components:

Shared Reading - Reading text as a class with teacher modeling. Shared reading is used to provide repeated readings. This allows every child to be familiar with the same text. Concepts taught during shared reading include phonics, spelling rules, mechanics, grammar, comprehension, format, etc. A variety of genres are explored.

Guided Reading - Guided reading refers to small reading groups where students are placed according to reading level and learning needs. In Guided Reading groups the teacher has a chance to listen to each child read and assist with word attack strategies as well as comprehension skills.

Independent Reading - Students have an opportunity to read independently each day. Research shows that children who read independently 30 minutes or more daily learn to apply their reading knowledge and increase their reading levels more than children who do not.

Read Aloud - A large variety of genres are read out loud and discussed as a class to build comprehension and model fluency.

Interactive Writing - During interactive writing, the students and teacher collaborate to create stories, lists, letters, poems, reports, etc. By “sharing the marker” with the teacher, student are involved in practicing good handwriting, proper letter formation, proper spelling, and correct conventions. Through interactive writing, grade level genres are addressed, modeled and practiced.

Independent Writing - Using the skills gained in interactive writing, students create their own writing. Students will produce letters, poems, personal narratives, reports, journal entries, reading responses, etc.

Writer’s Workshop

Writer’s workshop is our daily writing time. During this period, the teacher models different types of writing styles as well as the process that is used to write a piece from start to finish. During the writing period, students and the teacher will conference one on one to set goals and revise writing. As the students work on writing stories, they are introduced to the six traits of

writing. They are instructed in the six traits and how to improve upon them.

The six traits are:

Ideas and Content

Organization

Conventions

Voice

Word Choice

Sentence Fluency

Often the last three traits are combined into one trait: Style.

Spelling

Our district has created the spelling program, “Spell to Excel”. The words are taught on a developmental continuum and are based on a specific skill and/or pattern. Our goal is to have each child be able to transfer the knowledge to his/her daily writing, in a variety of situations, and not just memorize words for the test. All students are responsible for knowing how to spell the first 10 words. Words numbered 11-20 are an optional opportunity for your child to learn more challenging words with the same phonetic pattern. Your child may be offered even more words as an additional challenge. Your child will bring home their list on Wednesday or Thursday and be tested on those words the next Wednesday. Please make sure your student is studying their spelling words every night throughout the week.

Math

The philosophy of Everyday Math (our math program) is that children of the 21st Century need a mathematics curriculum that is both rigorous and balanced. Our math program emphasizes conceptual understanding, while building a mastery of basic skills. It explores the full mathematics spectrum, not just basic arithmetic. Most importantly, it is based on how children learn, what they’re interested in, and the future for which they must be prepared.

Everyday Mathematics is a spiraling curriculum. The children are expected to master a variety of mathematical skills and concepts, but not the first time they are encountered. Mathematical content is taught in a repeated fashion, beginning with concrete experiences. By spiraling, or providing opportunities to “double back,” revisiting topics, concepts and skills and then relating them to each other in new and different ways, helps children grasp and retain concepts.

Optimal learning occurs if it involves the child, the teacher and the home. Family letters are available electronically for each unit on our teacher websites. There is one Family Letter for each unit in the math book. This Family Letter provides you with helpful information regarding what we are learning about, topics and terms, and ideas for home-based mathematic activities that supplement classroom work. At the end of each Family Letter you will find the answers to any Home Link Homework we send home. Please use these to guide your child in doing their work.

Science and Social Studies

During the year, the students will be learning about communities, geography, map skills, the states of matter, earth systems and ecosystems. Our science units and social studies program include many hands on experiments and projects to help the children understand the world around them. We often carry these topics over into our literacy and writing time.

Homework

Research shows that the stronger the connection between school and home, the stronger your child will become in all developmental areas. Homework is one such avenue through which this partnership is strengthened. These assignments reflect learning curriculum currently being addressed in the classroom. Parents are encouraged to assist with these assignments, but only on a clarification basis. Your child will be receiving a variety of daily assignments, such as spelling, reading and math, as well as any unfinished work from the day. From time to time, other assignments will need to be completed but all in all, your child should only have 20 minutes in addition to the required nightly reading minutes. If your child is taking longer than the 40 minutes, please let us know so we can reevaluation your child's progress. If your child is taking more than 40 minutes and is obviously getting frustrated or doesn't understand what is begin asked, please stop the homework session.

Homework Folders

The homework folder will come home daily. Please make sure you check it daily to see what your child should be completing. In the folder you will find homework assignments/projects as well as school and classroom notes from time to time. All homework is due the next school day unless otherwise noted.

Absences and Make-Up Work

If your child is absent due to illness some work may need to be made up. The school policy for makeup work is: for every day a child is absent, he/she has one extra day to make up missed assignments. There may be times when you need to have your child out of school for a short period. Keep in mind, work they miss may need to be made up after they return. Please let us know about any upcoming absences as soon as possible.

Second Grade - Grading System

Many papers that receive a grade on them will have a number grade. The number grades are as follows:

Assessment Rubric

- 1 - Students cannot complete the task independently. They show little understanding of the concept or skill. There is little to no attempt of completing the work neatly. Work may be turned in late.
- 2 - Students show some understanding of the concept or skill. However, errors or misunderstanding still occur. Reminders, hints and suggestions are needed to promote student's understanding. Some effort is made to write and complete work neatly and on time.
- 3 - Students can apply the concept or skill correctly and independently. Work is completed on time, neatly written and correct.
- 4 - Students go above and beyond understanding and applying the concept or skill. Students apply concept or skill in more than one content area. Work is completed on time, neatly written and correct.

Nightly Reading/Monthly Reading Calendars

I will send home a monthly reading log at the beginning of each month. Please keep track of the reading your child does, whether independent or being read to, on the chart. It is expected that each child is reading or being read to at least 20 minutes a night. As students become better readers I expect that more of this 20 minutes will be independent. Please send the calendar back at the end of each month. Reading is a very important part of 2nd grade and is considered to be a part of homework each night. This is not optional.

Specials Schedule

Second graders will be participating in CAMP (Art, Music, and P.E.) on a weekly rotation. You can check my website to know which week we have which specials. Please make sure your children are dressed appropriately with tennis shoes for days when we have P.E.

Water Bottles

Your child is very welcome to bring in a water bottle (containing only water please) to have in class throughout the day. We usually keep our water bottles on our desks. To ensure that no water is spilled, please make sure the water bottle has a pop-up top on it. Mr. Obernesser really loves for the students to have water bottles on P.E. days as well!

Lunch Money

If your child brings lunch money to school, please make sure that you put the money in a zip-lock bag or an envelope. Your child's lunch number must be written on the bag or envelope along with his/her name. Students turn in lunch money to the cafeteria in the morning.

Birthdays

Celebrating birthdays at school is a much anticipated event for most children. We will sing Happy Birthday to children on their birthday and their teacher will have a special something for the birthday child. Along with school policy, birthday treats are not allowed to be shared at school.

Labeling Belongings

You would be absolutely amazed by the amount of items that wind up in our lost and found! Please help out by labeling your child's coats, backpacks, lunch box, boots, and anything else they may bring to school and take off. It is so easy to find the owner if a name is inside!!

Attendance

Regular attendance is very important for academic success. However, we understand that there are times when your child has to miss school. And while vacations are best planned for out-of-school times, travel opportunities do arise during the school year. If your child is very sick, we definitely don't want them at school. If it is necessary for your child to be out of school for an extended period of time (not due to illness), please be aware of what is happening at school during this time. Missing school during the last month of school is actually very tough on a student because of all of the assessments and completion of projects that is going on. If your child will be absent, I will save work for them when they return. It is often difficult for me to send home work ahead of time because things can change so rapidly that what is planned may not be covered at that specific time. Your child can also read and write during their absence from school.