



Welcome to Second Grade

Dear Parents,

Teaching is one of the few professions where you are wished a Happy New Year in August! For us, each fall brings a new school year and a new challenge- a new class of students. It's really like starting a new job every year. Your child might be surprised to learn that teachers don't sleep much the night before school starts either. This past week, we worked on establishing our rules and routines. Both the students and I had a nice week together. They are beginning to make the classroom their own and I was very pleased with the effort I saw in their work. I am truly looking forward to getting to know your child this year. Hopefully, the weather will be cool so we can all concentrate on our lessons and activities.

The following information may be useful to you as we begin the school year.

Lunch- Lunch will cost \$2.00. Milk only is \$.50.

Breakfast costs \$1.50. Reduced lunch is \$.40.

Children take care of their own money. **Please** put the money in a baggie, wrist pouch, wallet, etc. Money should not be brought to school in pockets or loose in backpacks. The children tend to play with loose change, drop money at recess, or lose their "ice cream money" if it is not in some sort of container.

In the past, children were able to purchase a five day lunch ticket that the cafeteria holds for the child. Lunches do not have to be purchased consecutively. You might want to try that option.

Classroom organization

Your child should have a ***folder*** to carry home their class work as well as memos from the office or class. They will also be given a folder for homework. Please check your child's folders daily. Simply looking at the

work will give you an idea of the skills being covered in class. It will also show you where your child may need extra practice.

If your child comes home for a few days with nothing in his folder, please suggest that he clean out his desk! *At the end of school every day we go over what should be in their folders!*

Every child has been provided with a box of 24 crayons, scissors, glue stick and pencil. **Please** have them leave markers, extra crayons, colored pencils and little pencil sharpeners at home. They are an added distraction.

Spelling- This year our spelling program will be organized as follows:

The first 12 words are directly from the reading text and are correlated with the phonics skill being taught that week.

The next 5 words are chosen from the Dolch high frequency list for reading and writing. They are not usually phonetic and must be memorized.

The final 3 words are the challenge words from the reading text. They are *not* mandatory, but will count as bonus points when spelled accurately.

Math- One of the most important state standards in second grade math is mastery of addition and subtraction facts. While strategies and some rules may be taught, mastery means a student is able to respond immediately to any fact without counting, etc. That takes practice!

It would be very helpful for your child to have a set of addition and subtraction flashcards at school. These facts should have sums to 18! These will be used to practice individually and in pairs.

Having a set at home would also be a helpful tool for you when practicing with your child.

Specialists/Physical Education- Specialists rotate on a seven day schedule. During each rotation the children will have art and physical education twice. They will also have music three times a cycle.

We are very fortunate this year to have Mr. Kraig Perry, a former history teacher at Fairhaven High School, to assist us in technology. He will help us explore Smart Boards as well as assisting the students with other programs and procedures on the computer. In addition, we will begin Study Island by January. If you know of any particularly good online activities, please let me know. Also, if any parent is particularly computer savvy, it would be wonderful to have an extra pair of hands.

Physical Education will be on ***E and G days***- Wednesday and Friday this

week. Please have your child wear sneakers and comfortable clothes on gym days.

Wish List- Supplies are always needed and appreciated. Some things we always need in second grade are glue sticks, Kleenex, paper plates, zip lock baggies, erasers, highlighters, whiteboard markers and lunch sized white or brown paper bags. Craft supplies such as ribbon, wiggly eyes, colored foam pieces and other decorating materials are also welcome. ***Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes are also appreciated.***

Homework Policy- A separate letter will be sent home today regarding homework.

Book Orders- You may choose to purchase books from Scholastic. When you do so, the classroom earns points that the teacher can trade for books. Using points from the book orders gives us a cost effective way to provide your child with a greater variety of interesting reading materials.

Volunteers Needed- At this time our class has twenty-three students. An aide is not currently scheduled in our classroom. The students appear to have a wide range of abilities and needs. if you are able to volunteer your time once a week, it would be greatly appreciated. Assistance is most needed from 10:00-11:30 am and possibly from 12:30-1:30 pm. ***All volunteers must have a completed CORI check.***

Volunteers are also needed for our school library. Our class is currently scheduled for Thursday from 12:45-1:15 pm.

In addition, parents are always needed for field trips, special projects in the classroom, etc. throughout the year.

Buses- ***It is very important to send a note whenever your child's transportation plans change.*** School policy mandates that your child go on the bus as you've indicated on your form *unless* we have a note or a call to the school. The children get very upset if they've been told at home that "Auntie Sue" is picking them and I have to say that they need to go on the bus because I don't have a note. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Dates to Remember

PTO- Tuesday, September 15th

Early Release- Thursday, September 17th

Open House- Thursday, September 24th- 6:00-7:30pm

Finally, please let me know if something is happening at home that might have an impact on your child at school! Everything from an upcoming vacation, to the death of a pet can change the way a child interacts in the classroom. Knowing what is happening in your child's life helps me to understand changes in behavior and work habits. Your privacy will be respected and our conversations will be kept confidential. You may send a note, e-mail, or call the school.

I hope that your child will have a happy, exciting, productive year! Please contact me if you have any comments or concerns.