

# Second Grade Handbook

Welcome to Second Grade with:

Mrs. Conrad

Mrs. Deleruyelle

## SECOND GRADE SCOOP:

Newsletters will be sent through email weekly on Fridays. If you would like a paper copy of the newsletter sent from your child's teacher make sure to let her know. These newsletters will be grade level specific and will inform you of academics being taught and what you can do to help your child practice the skills and strategies learned in class.

## SNACKS:

We will have two snacks daily. Please send your child with something nutritious. Please also send in a water bottle with your child. They will be kept in class all week and sent home on Fridays for cleaning. No juices please!

## READING:

The Into Reading curriculum is used for vocabulary, phonological/phonemic awareness, reading strategies and comprehension. We also use core literature to support comprehension skills and to ensure students are exposed to a wide variety of quality literature.

## **WRITING/GRAMMAR:**

Children learn to work through the writing process of planning, drafting, revising, editing and publishing. Writing units for the year include Personal Narrative, Descriptive Narrative, Persuasive, Personal and Opinion Essays, Poetry, and Research Papers. Grammar lessons are included in the new curriculum and will be focused on throughout the writing time.

## **PHONICS/SPELLING:**

Spelling is based on phonics skills taught through the Into Reading phonics curriculum. Any phonics pattern taught in reading should be transferred into their writing. We will have spelling pre and post tests weekly. Throughout the week, we will focus on the phonics skill and assess students at the end to see how well they've grasped the concept. We will use their assessment results for intervention strategies in focus groups.

## **MATH:**

We will be using Eureka Math<sup>2</sup>. Modules included are:

- Place Value through Metric Measurement and Data
- Counting and Comparing Numbers to 1,000
- Addition and Subtraction within 200
- Shapes and Time with Fraction Concepts
- Addition and Subtraction within 1,000
- Money, Data and Customary Measurement
- Multiplication and Division Concepts

Practicing a variety of ways to count as well as math fact fluency is highly encouraged as this helps students with all aspects of math fluency.

Assessments used in math are: end of module assessments as well as iReady testing throughout the year.

## **SCIENCE/SOCIAL STUDIES:**

We will be teaching these subjects on a rotating basis on Fridays. In Science, we use The Building Blocks of Science, a hands-on, inquiry-based curriculum developed by Carolina Biological Supply Company to establish a solid foundation in elementary science while addressing the Next Generation Science Standards. This program utilizes interactive investigations (experiments) and literacy components to teach science content and investigative skills (the scientific method). Lessons cover multiple days and are centered on phenomenon-based investigations. Throughout each unit, students are asked to use evidence and reasoning to support claims, engage in the engineering process to design solutions, and work in teams to solve problems. Second grade scientists learn about ecosystem diversity, the basics of matter, and earth materials.

Our themes for social studies are: community, geography and landforms, holidays and traditions, mapping, and Ute Pass history.

## **ASPEN VALLEY RANCH (takes place in 1st Quarter)**

This year, our second graders have the unique opportunity to visit Aspen Valley Ranch three times during the 1st quarter for an outdoor, environmental science experience. Please make sure your child is dressed properly as he/she will be outdoors the whole time. We will send home detailed information regarding these trips.

## HOMWORK POLICY:

Philosophy: Every family desires successful school and life experiences for their children. During the school day, children learn and grow in a rigorous, academic environment. After school, children need time with family and friends, to play, relax, and exercise.

Much research indicates that traditional homework completion does not greatly impact academic achievement at the elementary level in literacy, science and social studies. Research does indicate that home and school environments provide the following indicators of academic and life success:

- expansive vocabulary-conversation and reading is a strong predictor of reading/writing success
- wide variety of experiences-background knowledge is a strong predictor of academic success
- creativity and problem solving
- habits of mind and body-physical activity, work habits, character
- curiosity

Therefore, we rarely require traditional paper/pencil homework. Instead, we passionately encourage families to:

- **READ**-aloud as a family, independently, books, and magazines, etc. We also ask that you listen to your child read. We strongly recommend 100 minutes of reading a week. That is only 20 minutes five days a week!
- **WRITE**-thank-you notes, cards, letters, stories, poems, plays
- **PROBLEM SOLVE**-play games, cook, build, measure, count forward & backward, by 2's, 5's, 10's, work on math facts, occasional skill practice
- **CREATE**-play, draw, paint, dance, put on plays, sing, cook, build, dig
- **EXPLORE**-play in your house, your yard, your town, your state; visit museums, libraries, performances, research your interests

Teachers will communicate current skill work in weekly newsletters (including spelling, vocabulary, and math). Please practice these skills as needed at home.

*Occasionally*, teachers will ask your child to complete the following:

- mathematics skill practice
- work not finished in class
- corrections to assignments &/or assessments
- extra practice in an area of need

### **BIRTHDAYS:**

You are welcome to send in a treat, but we also offer "treat alternatives" to birthdays. This includes non-food choices for a child's special day. Some examples are: stuffed animal day, free choice play, extra recess, GoNoodle activity, and pajama day. Please speak with your child's teacher to find out more.

### **COMMUNICATION:**

Communication between home and school is vital to your child's success. Because there is not a classroom website, communication between school and home will be through newsletters, email and paper fliers.

Please feel free to contact us at any time through email or before/after school on our phone:

Email: [Iconrad@wpsdk12.org](mailto:Iconrad@wpsdk12.org)

School phone: 719-686-2300

Email: [cdeleruyelle@wpsdk12.org](mailto:cdeleruyelle@wpsdk12.org)

School phone: 719-686-2300

## **COLUMBINE PROMISE**

*We promise to look for the good in each other, to care for those who need caring, and to be kind to all. We celebrate all victories: yours, mine, and ours. We have the courage to do the right thing, because that is who we are, even when no one is watching.*