

## **Second Grade**

### **Welcome Back!**

#### **We are so excited about this year!**

Please keep this paper somewhere safe, as it will be needed throughout the year.

**Diverse Learning Environments** – We understand that all children are different and that everyone has different learning styles and needs. We incorporate many different kinds of differentiation in all areas of learning. We implement small group instruction in reading and math. The students are separated into small groups and are given extra support or enrichment as needed for each student. Many times our students are able to work at their own pace, and often have choices of activities. Our classrooms use hands on activities and manipulatives and encourage flexible seating when doing independent work. We also use “Menus” or “Tic Tac Toe” choices, that allow the student to pick their own way of completing the assignment that still covers our curriculum. We understand that the needs of our students change and so do our teaching methods.

**Religion** : Second Graders will make their First Reconciliation and First Communion this year. All preparations for these two sacraments will be made in religion classes. They will also participate in morning announcements or Masses during the year. Sacrament letters will be sent throughout the year to give dates and details as well as information about mandatory meetings. We will be doing monthly service projects that you will hear a lot more about as they get closer. This type of service will no longer be a homework grade. We do encourage full participation as it is very important that we participate in serving our community and following in Jesus’ foot steps to help others. We also do a weekly mini-lesson that we call Faith in Action. This will guide and encourage our students to give from their heart. To better help your child study for Religion tests, please use the website information below.

[www.webelieveweb.com](http://www.webelieveweb.com) -select Grade 2- Student- Study Guides- Chapter

**Reading** – There is a weekly reading story that we read and do activities with throughout the week. Your child will need to bring their reading books home nightly, (except on days when other books go home) to re-read and review the story. When practicing with your child try to ask higher level thinking questions instead of just who did what. Examples: How did they feel? What do you think you would do in that situation? Why did they do that? Have your child relate the story to their own life or what they know about the subject.

**Math** - My class will be using a new math program designed to increase speed and accuracy in math facts. The program is called Xtra Math. The information sheet will go home before we begin. We will be tracking progress and not moving on until basic facts are mastered. We will be doing this in the classroom as well as having your child practice at home. **It is mandatory that your child logs on and practices 3 times per week. All students must get 90% or more accuracy on their math facts to move on.**

There is NOT a textbook for Math this year. We use books that have worksheets that pull out of. Please keep papers that come home in the t-folder for studying until the chapter has been tested.

**Science and Social Studies** - In these classes, your children will have lots of projects and fun activities. The long term assignments are due on the date as seen on the behavior sheet and RenWeb. Please KEEP ALL papers in your child's Social Studies and Science papers. **DO NOT TAKE ANY PAPERS OUT A FOLDER UNLESS IT IS THE T FOLDER.**

**Spelling** – The spelling list comes home every Friday for the following week, and the test is every Thursday. I also post the spelling words in Ren Web on Monday's lesson plans.

**Behavior Sheets/Classroom Management**- Please sign the behavior sheet every day. They are checked by the teacher daily. This our way to communicate daily. Feel free to make quick notes on the behavior sheets. Homework assignments, projects and tests are on the back of the behavior sheets, as well as in Ren Web. Look ahead on the assignment side. Check for due dates.

**Homework**- Please have your child get into a routine of checking their t-folder every night. Remove all graded and stickered/checked papers. Try to set aside a quiet time and place for your child to complete homework. Second grade is assigned up to 45 minutes per night for homework. Reading practice (try for 10-20 minutes) and Xtra Math should be a part of your child's routine every night. Please have your child use second grade handwriting paper for written assignments that can be found at any office supply store. **Homework is due at the start of class; any work turned in after this time will receive a grade of "0".**

**Book Orders**- Your child will be given book order forms during the school year. There are two ways to make Scholastic Book Orders. You can complete the form at the end of the book order and attach a check to send in to class (please send checks only, we

cannot take cash). Make your check payable to Scholastic Books. OR you can go online and use my class teacher code: HMG TZ and make your payment electronically. If you choose the online option, please let me know because I have to release the orders that are put in online. Book orders are optional.

**Birthday Celebrations**- Due to the fact that some students have severe food allergies, the school policy states no food treats are allowed to be brought in to share with classmates. However, if you would like to share a non-food item, that is fine. This is optional.

**Graded Papers**- graded papers will come home as I grade them. Most are returned on Mondays because most graded work seems to fall towards the end of the week. But papers do come home daily.

**Absent Days/make up work** - If your child is absent, the student is responsible for turning in all missed work within 3 days. For long illnesses, teachers will be flexible with makeup work. Makeup work not turned in on time will result in a zero. For missed work due to absence, the gradebook will reflect a "1" until the student work is made up.

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