

Welcome to Second Grade

Dear Family Member,

This year the students will be making their First Reconciliation and their First Communion. If you would like your child to participate in these Sacraments and he/she was not baptized at St. Peter's Church, please check with Mrs. Kovac to make sure the school has your child's baptismal record on file. There will be one parent meeting regarding both of these Sacraments on October 12th. Please have at least one parent/guardian at this meeting. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is scheduled for November 9th. The Sacrament of Holy Eucharist is scheduled for May 1st. If your child was not baptized in the Catholic faith, he/she will learn about these Sacraments as a part of our religion curriculum; however, he/she will not be participating in the actual Sacrament.

Each week your child will receive a homework packet that is due at the end of the week. This packet will contain a variety of work that is aligned with our curriculum. Occasionally, there will also be a nightly math assignment that goes along with our daily lesson or a long-term project sent home. The important thing to help your child with is time management. This is a great time for your student to learn that homework is his/her responsibility. Feel free to assist your child by checking the home folder and planner each evening, but overall your child should be able to complete most of the work with minimal help. Please be sure to check your child's Assignment Notebook each day for assignments and/or other notes regarding the week. Students should bring home the Assignment Notebook each night to review homework responsibilities and return it to school the following day. We strongly encourage the children not to complete the entire packet in one night and instead plan out his/her week to work on a few pages each day.

Our math curriculum utilizes *Math Trailblazers™* was developed to meet national recommendations for improving mathematics education in our schools. In the first unit, your child will work on a variety of word problems, mostly involving addition. Students will illustrate word problems with pictures, numbers, words, and physical objects. They will solve problems individually and with partners and then communicate solutions to others. As a result, problem solving, estimation, and computation skills will improve. You can provide addition and subtraction practice for your child at home by creating word problems for your child to solve. Use examples in your child's book to serve as models for problems that are appropriate. Routinely, ask your child to explain how he or she solved different problems. As your child describes strategies, you will learn a great deal about his or her math understanding. This unit launches a yearlong focus on developing strategies for learning basic addition and subtraction facts and computing larger numbers. Research shows that using strategies to learn the facts results in a better understanding of math facts and a better attitude towards mathematics than learning math facts through rote memorization.

Each week your child will be checking out an Accelerated Reader book from the library. Each student's personal goal is to complete the book and take an AR test by the end of the week. Adjustments will be made if your child is reading a book that requires more than one week to finish. When we do not have school on library days, the students will not be required to take an AR test that week. Students in 2nd grade are all over the map when it comes to books. We encourage all children to read a variety of books at their level. Even if your child is able to read chapter books, it is important to remember that there are many age appropriate picture books that they still need exposure to. Accelerated Reader tests and STAR reader quizzes are only two of the tools we use in our overall reading assessment.

Students will take a spelling pre-test on Mondays, usually with a list of 15-20 words. Any missed words will become their list of words for the post-test given on Friday. Most weeks students will have 10 words to study from which will be written inside their planners. Not every student will have the same 10, so it is important for your child to know which words she/he should be studying.

Birthdays are a special event for each student. The students may bring treats for their birthdays. Please send an individual treat such as cookies or cupcakes since they are easier to handle. The student should bring the treat to school in the morning, so that we can eat them during the day. Also, remember napkins, plates, or cups if they are needed. There are 18 students in each homeroom (please send treats in for only your child's homeroom).

It is very important that your child is reading each night for at least 30 minutes. Also, please remember to practice math facts (addition and subtraction) each week with your child.

Please feel free to contact us with questions throughout the year!

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