



2nd Grade News

Welcome to Second Grade!!!



MATH

Here is what your child is learning in **Grade 2 math** along with some specific ways you can help.

We are beginning **Unit 1** which deals with:

- Reading, writing, modeling, and comparing whole numbers less than 100.
- Identifying ten more than and ten less than.
- Describing numbers as odd or even.
- Extending, creating, and identifying a rule for increasing numerical patterns.
- Collecting, organizing, and displaying data in more than one way and,
- Creating and interpreting tallies, bar graphs, and pictographs.

MATH CONTINUED

Ways Parents Can Help: Ask your child to continue an increasing numeric pattern and describe how the pattern is increasing. I.E., say, "5,8,11". Child responds, "14, 17, 20...I added 3 to get the next number."

Take your child on a walk through the neighborhood. Record on a tally chart the different animals you see. Talk about the information on the tally chart (e.g., "What animal did we see most often? How many did we see?")

Write a 3-or-4-digit number. Ask your child to identify the value of the digit in each place. I.e., given the number 345, the value of the 3 is 300, 4 is 40, 5 is 5.

Spark Matsunaga ES

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2nd Grade Testing

- GT (Gifted and Talented) testing is done in late winter/early spring.
- Terra Nova TN2 will be given in the spring to all Second Graders in the County.

Welcome New 2nd Grade Teachers!!!

We are pleased to introduce two new **Second Grade** teachers, **Caroline Bencal** and **Jena Richards**. **Caroline Bencal** has been working in **Montgomery County** for many years and we are very excited for her to be here at **Matsunaga ES**! She is an experienced **Book Club** teacher in both first and second grade reading. She will be working with several of our second grade children for **Book Club**. **Jena Richards** is returning to **Matsunaga ES** after several years of being home with her children. She is a very experienced teacher in second grade!! She will be working with small groups of children to improve reading and writing. We are soooooo happy to have her back here at **Matsunaga**!!

Basic Facts Testing



Students at **MES**, in all grades, are tested every week on **Math Basic Facts** in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. **2nd Grade** students should be practicing their basic facts at home every day! All students will be tested on their addition facts first.

WELCOME



Homework Assignment Books

Your student has brought home an assignment book with their nightly assignments written in them. (See article below). We will help the students put their homework down in their assignment books a great deal at first, and then less and less as the year progresses.

Our homework will be a two week cycle to go along with our spelling program. **Math homework will be given almost every night.**

Monday: Students will be doing a home sound exploration (week 1) or

practice words from a list (week 2).

Reading logs are due every Monday!

Tuesday: Students will be doing Home Writing Journals/Responses, or another reading activity for homework. Our focus for the 1st marking period will be personal narratives. These will be modeled for your students this week and go along with our current writing focus. These will usually be due on Friday.

Wednesday: Homework will deal with whatever reading strategy we are currently working on or will be a

Science/Social Studies related assignment.

Thursday: Students will have a DOL type of spelling activity for homework (week 1) or practice words from a list (week 2).

Friday: No homework.

We will be doing our best to not assign homework over any holidays or weekends, although some projects may run from one week to the next.

Please help us by signing your students assignment book every night after checking over their homework.

Remember!

As part of the instructional program here at MES, children in second grade have received an Agenda assignment planner. The Agenda is a homework planner that mirrors both the teacher's plan book and wall charts used in the classroom. It is an integral part of your child's education. Please make sure you send in the money for the Agenda Book as soon as possible. The cost is \$6.50.



Homework should take your child about 30 minutes each night, not including 15 minutes of reading or being read too. If HW is taking longer, please contact your child's teacher.

"When we seek to discover the best in others, we somehow bring out the best in ourselves." - William Arthur Ward

Balance and Weighing

Our science unit is Balance and Weighing. In this unit, students expand their understanding of the relationship between balance and weight as they explore activities in balancing, comparing, and weighing. Their experiences introduce them to the following concepts.

*balance is affected by the amount of weight, the position of weight, and the position of the fulcrum.

*weighing is the process of balancing an object against a certain number of standard units.

*the weight of an object is not determined by its size.

We will master these concepts by:

*performing simple science experiments

*using an equal-arm balance to compare and weigh.

*recording data on record sheets and tables.

*reading to learn more about balancing and weighing.

*and more.

Check This Out!

Computer web sites that we will be using here at school:

Funbrain.com—a wide variety of online educational games for children. The main focus is math and language game, in which grade level and skill level can be easily selected.

Funschool.com Variety of Ed type games with great graphics and applicable skills training.

Pbskids.org - Great reading site. Click on stories page, the students can read at their own pace.