



Second Grade Newsletter

August / September 2011

We, the second grade teachers, are excited about the new school year. Our first day was great! We look forward to knowing you and your child better as the year progresses.

We will be working closely as a team planning the instructional program in second grade. Through newsletters we will keep you informed of your child's academic instruction. As class schedules are finalized, they will be sent home.

Beginning Instruction

After pre-assessing students for growth in reading skills, we will begin our small group instruction. Reading for literary experience and reading to be informed is the plan for instruction for the first quarter of this year. There will be fifty minutes of writing instruction daily. For the first quarter, the focus of instruction will be personal expression.

Mathematics instruction will be given in your child's homeroom for the first week of school. We will be doing formal and informal assessments in order to identify each child's skill level in math. After collecting sufficient data, students will be placed in a group appropriate for their instructional needs.

The Life Cycle of the Butterfly is our first science unit. The students will study the four stages of a butterfly's lifecycle.

Students will begin learning about Political Systems in Action for our first social studies unit.

Homework Policy

Homework will be given four times a week (Monday-Thursday). The assignments may be in math, reading, written expression, spelling, social studies, or science. These assignments reinforce or enrich material already presented in classroom instruction. Your child should be able to complete the assignments within 30-40 minutes. **If homework is taking longer than this please write your teacher a note.** A second grader may need some assistance with her/his homework. Here are some ways that you can help: provide a quiet place at a consistent time each day for the completion of homework, check to see if homework is complete and placed in her/his folder, and **send a note to the teacher if your child has difficulty or is unable to complete a particular assignment.**

At the beginning of each week, your child will bring home a Homework Assignment Sheet (sample attached) listing the required assignments for the entire week, as well as a daily reading log. Each Friday, your child will be responsible for bringing home his/her Friday Folder with checked work. The work from the Friday Folder should remain at home. Each student is also responsible for returning the Friday Folder to school the following Monday. Please make sure that you sign the sheet inside the Friday Folder to indicate that you have received the work.

Back to School Night

We look forward to seeing you at Back-to-School Night on Tuesday, September 6, 2011. At this time we will go into more detail about the second grade program. You will also have a chance to sign-up for a November conference as well as sign-up for volunteer opportunities.

Communication

We believe communication between home and school is a vital part of your child's success. You can contact us at our email addresses listed below:

Mrs. Elgin	Kate_L_Elgin@mcpsmd.org
Mr. Gamard	Matthew_A_Gamard@mcpsmd.org
Ms. Perry	Andrea_Perry@mcpsmd.org
Ms. Solomon	Cori_A_Solomon@mcpsmd.org
Ms. Sparks	Kelsey_L_Sparks@mcpsmd.org

Please sign and return the bottom portion of the newsletter.

I have received the August/September Newsletter.

Child's Name

Parent's Signature