

Dear Parents,

We are **Swinging into Second Grade!** Last year your child developed their reading skills and now they are ready to apply those skills to new areas of study. Your child will be sharpening their handwriting skills and continuing to write cursive. This year the students will learn many interesting facts in Science and History. Math brings fractions, time, and yes, even multiplication. All of these fun things are taught in a Christian environment where academic standards are high and Biblical principles are woven throughout the curriculum.



Please remember that the education of your child is a team effort-the teacher, the parents, and the student working together in the best interest of your son/daughter. If you will make note of the following items, this will help us work together with your child.

Absences

When your child is absent, please send a note or e-mail when they return stating the reason for the absence. I need this for my records. I will have their make-up work available in the elementary office for you to pick up as long as you call the office and request it before noon.

Remember, after 5 tardies every third tardy is converted into an absence.

Communication

The MONKEY book will be sent home **every day**. MONKEY stands for My Organization Notebook Keeps Everything Yearlong. Anything you need me to see should be put in the MONKEY book. I will check it every morning.

A “Friday folder” will be sent home every **FRIDAY** with their graded papers from the previous week. Please look through these papers and return the empty folder on **MONDAY**.

If you have any questions throughout the year feel free to contact me by leaving a message in my voice mail 791-4248 ext. 313 or email me at lthorpe@wilmingtonchristian.com.

Please check out our web page. I am excited about filling it up with all our second grade happenings.

Pick Up and Drop Off

You may drop your child off at the classroom door after the 8:00 bell has rung. I will let the children into the classroom. At pick up please stay in your car and follow the pickup line of cars. This makes pick up so much more smooth and efficient. If you need to talk to me, please wait until 3:15 when the pickup line is officially over.

Supplies

Your child should have all supplies at school within a week. Most of these are used at school every day.

Birthdays

If you wish to send in cupcakes or something special for you child's birthday, please let me know in advance. We will have birthday treats in the cafeteria at lunch time. We will have a sign up schedule at the end of the year for the summer birthdays to have an "UN-birthday" day.

Lunch

Please remember that glass bottles are not allowed at school, and we will not be able to microwave you child's food. We do not allow students to purchase drinks with caffeine during lunch. The students may purchase ice cream on Fridays.

You are welcome to eat lunch with your child any day of the year. There will be a sign in station at the cafeteria. Our lunch time is 11:25.

Help Class

Help class will be on Mondays for Phonics and Tuesdays for Math from 3:15 to 3:45 pm. These classes will begin at the beginning of the year. I will send you a note in your child's MONKEY book or shoot you an e-mail if I would like your child to attend.

Grading

Grades are done according to the point system not a percentage system. Your child should receive nearly 1,000 points each 9 weeks in Phonics, Reading and Math. This gives your child many opportunities to keep their grades up.

Homework

I am a firm believer in family time. Homework that is assigned is critical for your Second Grader's success. Homework should only take 30 minutes and evening.

Reading

We focus on oral reading in the Second Grade. When your child reads his reading log homework out loud to you, please concentrate on fluency and expression. Our goal is to have them read just like they are talking to someone. When they have finished reading, ask them to tell you at least 3 things they remember from the story. An Oral Reading grade will be given once a week.

Accelerated Reader

The AR program focuses on reading comprehension. In Second Grade each student will be required to read one chapter book **OR** two grade level storybooks. The student will be able to check an AR book out of the library each week. The child can read the book silently, read it to you, you read it to them, or do all three! The goal is to help the child comprehend what they read. If your child does not score well on their test, they may read another book and take another test. I will take the highest score to base for their AR grade. AR is worth 100 points a month.

Math

On homework nights, the homework sheet will ask your child to practice their flashcards for 5 minutes. Please make sure they do this. Start off with only 10 flashcards. Drill these for 5 minutes until they have learned these facts, then add 5 more facts to the stack. There are fun on line fact games on my web site you can click on and let your child play for fact review also. By December they will be completing a 100 addition facts math sheet in 6 minutes. If they practice each night, and practice in class, they will have no problem with accomplishing this goal.

Spelling

We will alternate weeks with a spelling test and the next week a vocabulary test. On spelling weeks we will have a trial test on Wednesday. If they make a "100" on the trial test, they will have no test on Friday. By Thursday they will receive a special coupon telling you they are exempt from the test on Friday. The spelling list will be on my web page each week.

Verses

Each week the children will be given a Bible verse to memorize and say to me by Friday. They may quote the verse to me on the way to and from lunch or at the playground, if they would like to say it early.

Student of the Week

We will be featuring a Student of the Week each week this year. I will let you know when it is your child's turn. They will be featured on the Student of the Week Bulletin Board, have special Student of the Week privileges that week, and on Wednesday they may have a LUNCH BUDDY come eat lunch with them. Please put all their pictures and such on a poster board.

I am personally excited about this year. I am looking forward to assisting you in the pursuit of reaching your child's spiritual, academic, physical, and social excellence. Thank you for allowing me to teach your child this year. Please remember

me in your prayer time. Thank you for your help and cooperation!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Thorpe