

# The ABC's of 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE

...just for parents!



Whitman is an “early” elementary school. School begins promptly at 9:00am; however, students may **arrive** between 8:45 – 8:55am – at which time they will be permitted to enter the building (Please note that teachers who are on arrival duty are NOT in their stations until 8:55am. Should you drop your child off early, there will NOT be any supervision between 8:45 – 8:55am.)

If your child is **absent**, please notify the school (856-227-1103, choose option 1) and myself (lgregory@wtps.org) so that we know they are at home, safe, and with an adult. To avoid an unexcused absence, a note should accompany your child on the day of their return. In the event of a scheduled absence (ie: family related events, doctors visits, etc), please let us know in writing and as soon as possible!

Our class will have a 40-minute **art** class every week.



We love to celebrate **birthdays** in Room 7! However, due to district policy, all birthday “treats” **MUST BE FOOD FREE!** Therefore, we are encouraging students to donate a special book of their choosing to the classroom library, and they'll get a book in return! ☺ Additionally, please do not send birthday party invitations to be distributed at school unless all students in the class are invited. \*All summer birthdays will be recognized either on “half-birthdays” or at the end of the year, as the calendar permits.

In Second Grade, students will learn many valuable life skills, including how to self-monitor and regulate one's own **behavior**. To accomplish this, each student will be recognized and rewarded through Fuzzy Jars! (A complete description of our behavior/reward system will be discussed on Back to School Night.)

Scholastic **Book Club** order forms will be sent home for you and your child to look over every month. The Scholastic Book Club not only offers books at unbeatable prices, but it also is an excellent way to build your child's at-home library and foster a lifelong love for reading! **We also get FREE books for the classroom every time an order is placed!** ☺



Parent-teacher **conferences** are held in October (for all parents) and again in the spring (for select students). Information regarding these dates will be emailed home directly from the office, so please reply accordingly. Conferences beyond those dates will be scheduled directly with the teacher on an as needed basis.

Our class will have a 40-minute **computer** class every week.

Students will exchange their Fuzzies every 1 – 2 weeks for reward **coupons!**



Whitman is an “early” elementary school. Our **dismissal** (on regular, full days) is as follows: Kids Choice @ 3:18pm, Walkers @ 3:19pm, Buses @ 3:20pm.



Please complete and return the **emergency card** promptly. If at any time, any of that information changes during the year (especially phone numbers), please inform both the office and myself.

On **early dismissal days**, students will be dismissed at 1:40pm. Please be aware that students will still be eating lunch in school on these days, so plan accordingly.



Detailed information about **field trips** will be sent home in the students' Take Home folder approximately 3 weeks prior to the trip.



Our class will have a 40-minute **gym** class every week. The children are asked to wear athletic shoes on gym days!



Second Graders will be assigned nightly **homework** that directly correlates to the lessons taught earlier that day. It typically will consist of: a Phonics and a Math activity, along with 10-15 minutes of reading to/with an adult (subject to change). Homework should not take longer than 30 minutes to complete.

The parent **handbook** is an excellent tool that should be referred to often! School district policies and answers to many frequently asked questions can be found there.



**Independence** is a goal for my students because it builds self-esteem and self-confidence! Second Graders are capable of doing many things independently, and I encourage them to do (or at least try) as much as they can for themselves in my classroom.



To assist students in understanding the meaning of responsibility and teamwork, students will take turns having a different classroom **job** each week.



**Keep open lines of communication!** Feel free to contact me whenever you have a question, comment, or concern. I can be reached at (856) 227 – 1103 Ext. 3507, on Class Tag, or via email (lgregory@wtps.org).



The students will have a 20-minute recess, followed by a 20-minute **lunch** period everyday. If your child plans to purchase lunch/snack, it is highly encouraged that they memorize their PIN # to expedite the lunch purchasing process.

Our class will have a 40-minute **library** class every week. Don't forget your library books!



The Second Grade **math** curriculum provides students with mathematical experiences that help them develop a strong number sense and a positive attitude towards math that will continue throughout their school career and lives. Concepts are covered and reviewed daily through our morning routine, a math workshop, station activities, games, technology, and much more!

The children will have a 40-minute **music** class every week.



There will be **no school** on the following days: **September:** 3, 4, 19; **October:** 23; **November:** 7, 8, 11, 28, 29; **December:** 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31; **January:** 1, 20; **February:** 17; **April:** 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17; **May:** 22, 25. **\*Dates are subject to change!**



In Room 7, we have an **"Open Door" policy!** All parent visits and volunteers are welcomed!



**Phonics** will be taught daily! In Second Grade, we will "crack the code" on tons of patterns so that we can hone our decoding (*sounding out*) & encoding (*spelling*) skills.



**Questions?** Please feel free to email, stop in, send a note, or call!



The Second Grade **reading** curriculum exposes students to a variety of texts, as well as provides them with a myriad of experiences to help them develop their repertoire of reading skills and strategies. Reading concepts are covered daily through whole group & small-group instruction, as well as through Daily 5 activities (*independent tasks completed with peers*).

**Report cards** will be sent home at the end of every marking period. Be on the look out for report cards in November, early February, April, and on the last day of school in June!



**Sight word** mastery is a fundamental component in learning how to read. Second Graders will be responsible for mastering the first 600+ high frequency words (which includes, but is not limited to, our Foundations Trick Words)!

A multitude of **science & social studies** topics will be explored this year! We will learn all about good citizenship, diversity, our community and world, as well as delve into all the major areas of science: life, physical, & Earth.

Due to the nature of our schedule, we will have a brief **snack** period each morning. Since snacks are NOT provided, please send an "easy-to-open" & "mess free" treat that your child may enjoy at their desk during this time. Please note that utensils will not be available during this time – sorry! ☹️



If your child has any changes in their **transportation** (or pick-up adult) at dismissal, please let me know *in writing* ASAP (you may use the form on my website). For last minute changes, please call and inform the office.



Keep **updated** on classroom and school happenings by frequently checking your email, the classroom and school websites, and your child's Take Home folder!



**Volunteers** and **visitors** must register in the office and pick up a badge.



The Second Grade **writing** curriculum provides students with opportunities to explore and examine the works of well-known authors to further enhance their own craft. Each unit will highlight an essential early writing genre and/or skill that is necessary for continued literary success. Following the teacher's direct instruction, students will then continually apply these skills to their independent writing, Daily 5 activities, and tasks across all the major content areas.



Parents and family members may only **eXit** and enter via the main school entry.



**Your ideas**...and suggestions are welcomed!



**Zzzzzz!** Make sure that your child gets plenty of rest to ensure a productive day in school the following day.