



Mrs. Santarossa's 2nd Grade in a Nutshell

Welcome to 2nd grade! Below you will find brief descriptions of how things will go in our classroom this year. Please note that as our class learns and grows together some of these procedures will change! Please check your child's ORANGE folder and agenda daily for updates on our classroom routines and expectations!

VERY IMPORTANT DATES:

Charlotte's Web Field Trip	John Waldron	October 17, 2019 @ 10:00 AM
2 nd Grade Mass	Church	November 8, 2019 @ 8:30 AM
Crane Field Trip	Crane	November 6, 2019, Time TBA
1 st Reconciliation	Church	February 12, 2020 @ 9:30 AM
2 nd Grade Mass	Church	February 21, 2019 @ 8:30 AM
2 nd Grade Retreat/Rehearsal	Gym	March 30, 2020 @ 6:00 PM
1 st Communion	Church	April 18, 2020 @ 11:00 AM
Mother's Day Spa	Classroom	May 7, 2020 @ 8:30 AM
Donuts with Dad	Classroom	May 13, 2020 @ 8:30 AM
Stinky Cheese Field Trip	TBA	May 13, 2020 @ 10:00 AM
End of year awards	Classroom	May 20, 2020, Time TBA

Please continue working with your child on praying, singing, and responding in mass as you do. That is a large part of our preparation for the sacraments.

Assessments:

During second grade will be taking the Terra Nova and InView assessments. These assessments are given only in 2nd grade and will give us information about each child regarding their cognitive ability and academic achievement.

Terra Nova Third Edition Multiple Assessments

- This assessment covers reading, language arts, mathematics, science and social studies.
- The purpose of this assessment is to identify the level of academic achievement.

InView Assessment

- This assessment covers verbal reasoning, sequences, analogies and quantitative reasoning.
- The purpose of this assessment is to identify the cognitive abilities and skills important for academic success.

Attendance:

Attending school each day and arriving on time will help your child be successful this year. Many of the things we do in class will be difficult to make-up at home. Please send a note when your child returns from an absence. The students will be rewarded, as a class, when all students are in attendance. After 20 days with our entire class present the class will earn a group reward.

If your child is tardy, please stop at the school office for a slip before coming to the classroom.

Class work and homework that is missed during an absence will need to be completed at home and during free time in the classroom.

If you know in advance that you need to pick your child up early, please notify the office staff and me. I will do my best to have your student prepared for you at the designated time.

Birthday Invitations

Our school policy states that birthday party invitations are not to be passed out at school unless the whole class is invited. It is preferred that gifts are given outside of school as well. We will celebrate each student's birthday in class. If you would like to bring treats to share with the class please inform me ahead of time so we can schedule an appropriate time.

Communication (Parent-Teacher)

I believe that communication between parents and teacher is an essential key to the success of your student. My goal is to provide multiple lines of communication for you to ensure that we are always on the same page.

E-Mail: Please feel free to email at amsantarossa@stcharlesbloomington.org any time. I will check emails throughout the school day as well as in the evening. I will primarily communicate with you via email. If you do not have an email address please notify me immediately so we can set up a different line of communication for any concerns, praises, or questions I may have regarding your student.

Jupiter: I will send out individual and group emails through JUIPTER. Please feel free to use the program to contact me.

Phone/ Text: If you need to send an urgent message, please call the school office at 336-5853. You are also welcome to contact me at home via text or phone at 812-322-7181.

Curriculum:

STEM

STEM education is an exciting approach to teaching that stimulates children's creativity and draws upon their natural curiosity. Students gain knowledge and experience in the STEM

disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math by working on engaging project-based activities or challenges. Teachers facilitate students' independent discoveries by guiding them through the STEM design progress toward a specific goal. Along the way, students will naturally explore, observe, question, predict, and investigate concepts among the STEM disciplines.

(Excerpted from What is STEM? Teacher guide --Lakeshore Learning Copyright)

Math

GO MATH is our newly adopted math curriculum. GO MATH offers a balanced approach to learning mathematics. We will review this program and discuss what it has to offer at open house.

Language Arts

The new WONDERS program builds knowledge through content-rich nonfiction and information texts, specifically by organizing units of instruction around key science and social studies knowledge goals. Vocabulary development comes from complex text and is based on the research of leading experts.

Literacy Circles

In literature circles, small groups of students gather with a leader together to discuss a piece of literature in depth. The discussion is guided by students' response to what they have read. You may hear talk about events and characters in the book, the author's craft or personal experiences related to the story. Literature circles provide a way for students to engage in critical thinking and reflection as they read, discuss and respond to books. Collaboration is at the heart of this approach. Students reshape and add onto their understanding as they construct meaning with other readers. Finally, literature circles guide students to deeper understanding of what they read through structured discussion and extended written and artistic response.

Literature circles look different in every classroom; they change from teacher to teacher, grade to grade, student to student. Literature circles have no recipe, they are not a specific "program", and they never look the same from year to year -- or even from day to day. The reason? True engagement with literature within a community of learners can't possibly be prescribed -- it can only be described. (Excerpted from Getting Started with Literature Circles by Noe and Johnson)

Handwriting

All handwriting instruction will be manuscript until September. Please do not teach your child cursive at home or encourage them to try it yet. The goal is to refine the skills of manuscript; improving the keys to legibility: size, shape, slant and spacing. Cursive will be introduced in September. The mastery of manuscript writing prepares your child for a successful and easy transition to cursive writing. As a general rule, "The better the manuscript, the better the cursive will be."

Religion

Your child will be preparing to make his/her First Reconciliation and First Communion this year. Second grade is an exciting year in their faith growth! We use the series, *Jesus Teaches*. It is a well-rounded program that also focuses on Scripture and Catholic Church doctrine to help students learn about their faith.

It incorporates saints and people of faith for use as role models, and introduces Church feasts and seasonal celebrations.

We also try to extend our living faith outside of the classroom by practicing our Catholic Social Teachings. We will be doing a wide variety of service projects this year, including participation in our school food drive, making cards for the military, sick and elderly, and caring for our environment, to mention just a few!

Spelling

Spelling will be taught in conjunction with phonics. We use the WONDER series. It will be interwoven with phonic sounds and sight word memorization.

Social Studies

Social studies will be taught using the series Social Studies Weekly.

Science

Science will be taught by Mrs. Maxwell. It is taught with lots of hands on experiences. Second graders will be learning about trees, solids and liquids, air and weather and insects. Students may also be part of our school Gardening Club which Mrs. Maxwell mentors. See her website for more information.

Music

Music will be taught by Mr. Lucaitus. Students will progress in learning to sing and make music with instruments. They will also learn to identify and demonstrate musical note patterns and rhythms. *I also have a piano in my class for children to play on a rotating basis! If you have simple music you can share, please bring it in to our class!*

Media Center

Students are introduced by Mrs. Murray to a wide range of fairy tales and folklore. They will understand the Dewey Decimal System for arranging nonfiction books. Miss Sherman will introduce basic note card strategies, and a guided use of Internet resources. Your child will be able to integrate information for practical application. See Miss Sherman's website for more information.

Physical Education

Physical education will be taught by Mrs. Mitchell. *Please make sure that your child wears appropriate shoes on Tuesday and Thursday for this class.*

Reading Buddies

Every Wednesday we will meet with students in Preschool. We read to them, and also celebrate holidays with them. It is a great way for your child to mentor a younger child in our school.

Dismissal:

In good weather, all children are dismissed outside of the school unless other arrangements are made ahead of time for you to pick up your child early. Your child's safety is very important to me so I ask the children to make sure we say good bye to each other before they leave our line to go with you. I appreciate your help in reminding your child to make sure he/she says goodbye to me and that I respond before leaving.

In the event of inclement weather, we will be waiting in the gym for parents to park and come inside for pickup.

Expectations:

Our classroom expectations are simple:

1. Listen when your teacher is talking.
2. Follow directions quickly.
3. Respect others, yourself, and your school.
4. Be safe, be kind, and be honest.
5. Raise your hand to speak or stand.

I expect all students to follow school and classroom rules at all times. I want students to be responsible for their behavior, especially their good behavior. I want them to feel good about the choices that they make throughout the day. Teaching students how to be responsible and to make good choices will create a more productive and enjoyable atmosphere for learning. My hope is that your child will be able to demonstrate these skills with you at home as well.

Field Trips:

Information regarding field trips will be sent home as soon as each trip is confirmed. Closer to each date a permission slip will be sent home as well as a request for drivers and/or chaperones. We will plan field trips that are tied to the curriculum and provide opportunities for meaningful learning experiences.

Homework:

Your child's homework will not be traditional this year. Both second grade teachers will be creating engaging, hands-on activities that will encourage independence and growth at home. We will elaborate on this concept at our elementary open house presentation.

Additional homework may be assigned throughout the school year based on our theme and curriculum.

Reading Log

- A blank reading log will be sent home in your child's Green Homework Folder each Monday afternoon as a part of their homework packet. Reading logs will be collected the following Friday for a reading grade.
- Reading logs need to be filled out by the student and initialed by an adult each night after the reading has occurred. Please do not sign the logs in advance.
- The reading homework is just 5 nights a week for 20 minutes a night. This should allow plenty of opportunity for outside reading.
- Reading logs should always be kept in your student's green daily take-home folder. I check these each day, so it's important that they are at school every morning.
- Students that bring their complete reading log every Monday for 4 weeks in a row will be able to participate in classroom privileges and/ or receive classroom rewards.

Mass:

The elementary school attends mass every Friday at 8:30. Once a month we will attend mass on Wednesday instead for an all-school celebration of the mass. Parents and family are always welcome to attend the school masses. Second graders must sit with our class, however, you are welcome to sit with your child in our section.

If your child is tardy on a mass day please:

1. Sign-in in the school office
2. Drop your child's backpack by our classroom door
3. Walk your second grader to me in mass. Please ensure that I see your child and know s/he is being dropped off.

Organization:

Daily Folder

To keep track of homework students will have an **orange** daily folder. This folder has pockets that are each labeled "to keep at home" and "return to school." Homework should be kept on the "return to school side" throughout the week so I can check progress. Any notes that need to be return will come home to you on the other side.

This folder will come home each Monday with the homework for the entire week. All homework is due on Friday morning and should be returned in their green daily folder.

Please return this folder to school daily. Any school-wide or classroom reminders that cannot wait until Friday or be distributed via e-mail will be sent home in this folder. Additionally, I will check this folder each morning for any notes, permission slips, money, etc.

Friday Folder

The purple Friday Folder will contain your child's completed papers and notes for the week. The students should feel proud of their work and enjoy showing it to you. This is a great way to start a conversation about what they have been learning. Please return the Friday Folder, signed, and any necessary forms to school each Monday.

Agenda

Our main two-way communication tool will be your child's agenda. The agenda will be used to communicate homework, behavior, and any upcoming school events. Please read and initial your child's agenda daily. Feel free to write messages to me also! I check and stamp the agendas each morning.

Agendas need to be returned to school EVERY day. Students that return their initialed agenda Monday- Friday will be able to participate in classroom privileges and/ or receive classroom rewards. Please note that only parents and/ or guardians can initial a student's agenda.

Parent Volunteers:

I welcome parent volunteers in the classroom! If you would be available to help in the classroom please let me know so we can discuss a schedule. Thank you!

Specials:

Monday: Art

Tuesday: French, PE, Science & Music

Wednesday: Media Center, French, & Music

Thursday: French, PE, Science & Music

Friday: Mass

Specials Teachers

Art- Ms. Hallard

PE- Mrs. Mitchell

Media Center- Miss. Sherman & Mrs. Murray

Music- Mr. Lucates

Science- Mrs. Maxwell

Please help your second grader remember to wear appropriate shoes on gym days and to return library books on or before Media Center day.

Lunch is every day at 11:30 followed by recess at 12:00.

Water bottles

Second graders may bring a water bottle to school. Please label your child's water bottle with first and last name and do not send any liquids other than water in the bottle.

If you have any questions or concerns about our classroom or your child, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am excited about the upcoming year together!

Thank you!
Mrs. Santarossa