

# Back to School Night



## Second Grade

Reeceville Elementary School  
Mrs. Cooper  
2019-2020

August 2019

Dear Parents,

Hello and welcome to "Back to School Night" at Reeceville! It's a pleasure to have you visit our classroom this evening. The following will hopefully be helpful information for you concerning classroom procedures and second grade curriculum.

### Goals

This year I plan to help each child to...

- work to his/her potential.
- be responsible for completing all tasks.
- develop more self-confidence and gain self-esteem.
- take pride in his/her work.
- take responsibility for his/her actions and to think before acting.
- treat peers, adults, and self with respect.

### Homework

A Homework Contract will be sent every week for parent review that needs to be returned daily. Homework is assigned EVERY night except Friday. I am asking that your child take the time each night to read for at least 15-20 minutes. Reading is important for every night and will help increase their comprehension and fluency. On the back side of the homework contract you will see a different fluency story to be practiced throughout the week. Please read and reread each night for practice, as this helps build fluency and confidence. Homework assignments reinforce classroom instruction and provide insight into each student's abilities and needs.

Your child has been given a homework folder to keep everything organized. For second graders, homework should take no more than 30 minutes. If homework is taking much more than this, please let me know.

I feel it is important to let you know that I do check homework **every morning**. We always go over it and the students receive feedback. I do check that it is completed each day and use this information to help determine the effort part of your child's grade. Homework is practice and/or an extension of what was learned during the day, and therefore I treat it as such. **Please be reminded** that all elementary schools in the District operate on trimesters and therefore the material that is covered in a report period will span a longer grade time period.



## Discipline

In order to provide a positive learning environment, I believe it is important for both the students and parents to understand the rules, expectations and consequences of the classroom. I would like to establish an open communication between home and school so your child will be successful.

Students receive incentives to work individually and as a group to earn rewards and special class activities by completing classroom work, homework, and displaying appropriate behaviors.

Below are my lists of rules, expectations, and consequences for the classroom. I will review these with your child at school.

### **Class Rules**

1. Listen and follow directions the first time given.
2. Respect others, authority and property of others.
3. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
4. Walk, speak softly and raise your hand.
5. Use good manners, never hurt anyone on the outside or inside and help someone who is hurt.



**Consequences and actions for inappropriate behaviors: A color card system is used.**

1. First warning- Establish eye contact allowing time for student recognition. **Green Card**
2. Second warning- A verbal reminder will be given for unacceptable behavior. **Green card changed to Yellow card**
3. Third warning- A restriction will be given (ex. Partial loss of recess) **Red card**
4. Fourth warning- Parent or guardian notified and principal notified. **Blue Card**

**Rules for late, incomplete or unacceptable work:**

A note is sent home to the parent or guardian informing them of the situation and requiring a response and signature.

## Computers

Children will have the opportunity to use the Chromebooks in our room. A list of educational websites will be sent home at a later date.



### **Once-A-Week Folder**

Each week I will be sending home in the student's Once-A-Week folder any graded work, tests, newsletters, and numerous forms from the office. **Please review, sign, and return all tests in this folder with your child and have your child return the folder to school on the next school day.** The use of this folder helps to cut down on all the loose papers that tend to be distributed to our classrooms on a daily basis. It also allows you, as the parents, to know when papers are handed back. Paperwork will not be sent home by the way of the Once-A-Week folder when it is dated and needs an immediate response. Many times these refer to very specific events and activities at Reeceville and it could mean first come, first served. Please be sure to return these dated papers with your child ASAP.

### **Scholastic Book Orders**

Occasionally, I will send home an order form for the Scholastic Book Club. If you are interested in purchasing books for your child, please fill out the order form and return it with payment to me by the date on the attached note. Checks should be made payable to "Scholastic Book Clubs". No cash please. Or you can go onto the Scholastic website and use our class code HXWRL.

### **Birthdays**

Birthdays are an exciting time for second graders. If he/she would like to share a treat with the class on this day, please contact me in advance so I can accommodate your request. Healthy treats are encouraged! Please let me know ASAP if your child has any food allergies!

### **Newsletters**

Newsletters will be sent periodically noting upcoming events, etc. Please read these and keep them for reference.

### **Snack**

The students may bring in a healthy afternoon snack. The students will not be permitted to share snacks due to allergies. Please be mindful that many students have peanut allergies. Please send a snack that is free of peanut products and oils. Healthy snacks are highly encouraged like fruits and vegetables to hold us over until we arrive home.

### Class schedule

Our school day consists of various subjects with allocated times for each area. A schedule will be provided.

Morning Meeting, Math, Read Aloud

Recess, Writing, Lunch

Reading, Word Study, Science/Social Studies, Special

### Absences

Students who are absent are held responsible for class work, homework, tests, and the return of forms that were due while they were absent. Tests will be announced in advance. Therefore, a student who is absent the day before a test, is still expected to take the test. When a student is absent the day of the test, the test will be given the day the student returns.

In the event of a lengthy absence, please contact the school and allow me to send the work home instead of it accumulating for your child. It becomes quite overwhelming to students when they are trying to catch up with work they've missed, along with working to keep up with the current class work.

Finally, please follow the policy for CASD when planning a vacation during the school year. I will be happy to put together important work for your child prior to the trip and accommodate you the best I can.

Please realize that as hard as I try, I am not perfect. I will make mistakes but will do so with the best intentions in mind for the students. If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to call me at school at 610-383-3785 or email me at [cooperm@casdschools.org](mailto:cooperm@casdschools.org). If I am not available, I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Thank you,  
Mrs. Cooper

## ***Welcome to Second Grade!***

**LANGUAGE ARTS:** Coatesville Area School District is implementing a new the research-based series called **Units of Study for Teaching Reading, Writing, and Phonics by Lucy Calkins** published by Heinemann Publishers.

**Reading:** There are many components to our program to support our students in becoming lifelong readers. Our goal is to make reading attainable and pleasurable for all our students.

- **Reading Aloud:** Teachers read to students to expand their vocabulary, reading skills, concepts and knowledge. The teacher serves as a model of expressive, fluent reading.
- **Shared Reading:** These whole class activities are literature-based. The activities provide for engaging participation in the integration of reading, writing, listening and speaking as well as direct instruction in skills and strategies. The stories are connected to a central theme. Second Grade has four main themes. The theme titles are:
  - Second Grade Reading Growth Spurt
  - Becoming Experts Reading Non-Fiction
  - Bigger Books mean Amping Up Reading Power
  - Series Book Clubs
- **Reading Workshop/ Mini-Lessons/Guided Reading:** Students are grouped by their instructional reading levels. In this setting the teacher reinforces skills taught in a mini-lessons and the students practice with materials they can comfortably read. The students have the opportunity to improve fluency and expression, develop comprehension skills and strategies and experience the pleasure of reading independently. The teacher will also conference with students to provide coaching to support and improve skills.
- **Independent Reading:** During the day there is an opportunity for the students to have self selected reading time. They are encouraged to choose reading material that they can read on their own. There is a variety of reading material from which to choose.

**Writing:** Second Grade writers feel like big kids and want work that feels big and important. That's just what they'll get in these units. First, children learn to craft powerful true stories based on their own small moments. In the second unit, students study nonfiction texts and learn to write about science. In the next unit, students craft persuasive arguments based on text evidence. Finally, students explore language by writing poetry in Unit 4.

**Word Study/Phonics:** Second Grade will learn different skills and strategies to promote their phonemic awareness.

### **How can I as a parent become involved?**

- Send a clear message that you expect your child's best effort.

- Read at least fifteen minutes a night. It is a homework requirement.
- Be a model by reading magazines, newspapers and books.
- Encourage reading time as a leisure activity for the whole family.
- Present your child with opportunities to write. Encourage writing stories, thank you notes, letters and messages.

**MATHEMATICS:** The Coatesville Area School District program is called Every Day Math with alignment to the PA Common Core. It offers a variety of techniques to engage students in a deeper understanding of mathematics beginning with manipulating concrete objects (hands on approach) and moving to the abstract (paper and pencil). There is an emphasis on basic math facts and skills: problem solving (reading and solving word problems), daily and continuous practice of skills and ongoing test preparation.

Knowing the basic addition and subtraction facts up to 20 are a must by the end of second grade, but the sooner learned, the better. Without the basic knowledge, problem solving becomes more challenging because the student is concentrating on the computation as well as the process to solve a simple equation. The students are given opportunities to practice in school but it also requires practicing at home too. The students are tested each month to track their progress. Students are expected to complete 100 basic addition facts in 5 minutes and 100 basic subtraction facts in 6 minutes.

#### **How can I as a parent become involved?**

- Children need to connect to math and practice it. Give them opportunities to count money and tell time. Follow recipes together. Talk about the math you are using while you measure and build.
- Do the “basic facts practice” homework as your child’s partner
- Have fun with computations and problem-solving skills. Work together and “talk out” what you are thinking as you are solving the problem. Don’t overload. Break down the work into small pieces.
- Use flashcards and review a few each night. Make two sets, the “knowns” and the “unknowns”. Only put a couple of “unknowns” with a few “knowns” until the “unknowns” are learned. Then you can add a few more “unknowns” to study.
- Practice answering the problems in a timed situation.

#### **SCIENCE:**

Second Grade will study Health, Nutrition and Bicycle Safety, Insects and Air and Weather in the classroom. Our students will also have the opportunity to participate in a program called Project Lead the Way. Topics will include Materials Science Properties of Matter, Materials Science Form and Function, Changing Earth, Grids and Games.

**SOCIAL STUDIES:** Second Grade areas of study are communities, neighborhoods, citizenship and maps and globes.