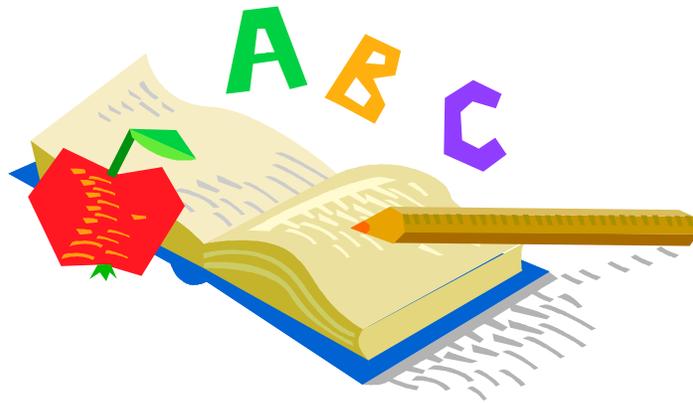


Mrs. Killmans 2nd Grade Handbook



Dear Parents,

Welcome to another exciting year of your child's educational life. One of the main ingredients in your child's success is YOU, the parent. Since this can seem like an extremely overwhelming responsibility at times, this parent handbook has been designed to be a fingertip resource for you to use throughout the year. Hopefully, you will find some answers to your questions and confirmations of your decisions throughout this booklet.

You are strongly encouraged to be an active participant in your child's education. It is very important to form an open and understanding line of communication with the teacher by:

- Asking questions when something is unclear,
- Attending all scheduled conferences,
- Answering all correspondence home,
- Discussing difficulties you believe your child is experiencing,
- Discussing achievements your child has accomplished,
- Listening to the professional recommendations and suggestions given by the teacher(s),
- Understanding no one is perfect or has all the answers, including the teacher(s).

Share the joy of learning with your child by helping with homework (not doing it!), reading every night, being a partner in special projects to be done at home, and celebrating any job or accomplishment done well. The time you spend now will form a firm foundation for successful study habits later.

It's time to begin our journey. Get ready for a ride with many exciting, surprising, and sometimes unexpected trips through a "Year of Discovery".

Sincerely,

Mrs. Killman ☺

CLASS WORK

The following acronym is used to describe how students' work should be done:

NC2O

Neat—Complete—Correct—On Time

Students are expected to do their personal best and to check their work against the above class work policy. If the work is incomplete or messy, and if there is no extra class time to complete it, it will be sent home to be finished or redone and will be due the next day unless otherwise indicated. Work with errors may be sent home to be corrected so the child will be able to see the mistakes he/she made and therefore will be less likely to make the same mistakes again. Likewise, that work will be due the next day as well. Consequences will be given for incomplete assignments or for assignments not done.

It is important that good work habits are formed, and that is the reason for the above policy. Children are given adequate work time to complete their work and ask questions about their work.

SNACK TIME

Beginning the first day of school, we will have a 5-10 minute snack time each day. **Snacks must be healthy.** Sugary snacks are **NOT** permitted. Some suggestions for healthy snacks are fruit, veggies, crackers, cheese, granola, or cereal/cereal bars. Please note that items can not contain nuts, are not refrigerated, so please make appropriate choices. This is not to take place of lunch. Do not send drinks, as we have a classroom drinking fountain. Snacks are optional. **Teacher will not be providing daily snacks.**

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are special times for all of our students. Birthday treats are welcome, but please do not go overboard. We usually celebrate the last 15 minutes of the day so there is not time for anything elaborate. A treat to take home or cupcakes or cookies are great. Food items must be store bought. No homemade items are allowed. Please provide plates and/or napkins, if necessary.

MRS KILLMAN'S WATER BOTTLE RULES

- Water bottle may be no larger than standard squeeze bottle size.
- Water bottles must contain only water.
- Water bottles must be spill proof and free of leaks.
- Water bottles may not be shared.
- Water bottles must remain closed except for drink opening.
- Water bottles should be marked with your child's name.

Mrs. Killmans 2nd Grade Academics & Grading Policy

READING PROGRAM

Reading is a very important part of our day. It is understood that students have varying levels of ability as well as the fact that students learn in a variety of ways. We will do a variety of activities during the day to stretch our learning. We will use Pearson and literature studies to enhance our learning.

The following are other valuable components of the reading instruction:

- Vocabulary
- Writing activities
- Paired, choral and independent reading
- Small and whole group activities
- Readers' Theater
- Group discussions

All second graders are assessed at least three times a year using the DIBELS assessments. These assessments given in August, December and May determine each student's ability. As you know second grade is an important, especially when it comes to reading.

In addition to the instruction that occurs in the classroom, it is vital that the students are involved in reading at home on a regular basis to reinforce and support what is happening at school. It is asked that parents and other family members encourage students to read at home daily. Reading grades will be based on a variety of activities including tests, classwork, homework, classroom discussion participation, and projects.

WRITING & SPELLING

Next to reading, writing should be the most exciting and fun skill the students learn this year. It can also be very challenging for many students. The class will do some kind of writing every day. It is important that the students enjoy writing and not think of it as drudgery. Writing instruction is based on the Write from the Beginning program and also the Six Traits of Good Writing: Ideas, Organization, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Voice and Conventions. Your child's writing grade will incorporate writing assignments graded with either the Write from the Beginning rubric or the 6 Traits writing rubric. Also included will be language skills activities and weekly spelling dictation quizzes.

The spelling curriculum is adapted from the Pearson reading program adopted by the district and Words Their Way. It incorporates high frequency words (sight words) along with decodable, patterned words. Each week the students will have a list of words associated with the week's story. The students will work with the words in the classroom in a variety of ways. A spelling assessment, through sentence dictation, will be given each week. Once spelling words and their rhyme patterns have been introduced, students are expected to spell those words correctly in all of their writing activities, both at home and in school.

SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES

We use the adopted state standards in our classroom. We are in a transition year for standards. Your child's grade will be based on participation and completion of various activities.

MATH

Each day your child will participate in a wide variety of mathematics activities provided through the adopted Eureka Math curriculum as well as various other math resources. They will be used to ensure mastery, enrich, and remediate students as needed. Your child will learn through hands-on experiences, discussion, and exploration. The new learning will be reinforced through carefully considered practice.

Some days will include guided written practice reinforcing the new learning as well as the review of past concepts. Homework will include the reinforcement of math skills and will need to be returned the following school day. Since the class will be taking side trips in our math journey to enrich and enhance some of our lessons, a math homework sheet may not come home every night so please be diligent in checking every day with your child. Assessment of your child's progress occurs on a regular basis, both written and verbally. The quarterly math grade will be based on math assessments and select math activities and assignments.

- **Please be aware that a grade in any one of these academic areas may be changed at the teacher's professional discretion based on classroom observations of effort and participation.**
- **In each subject area, some assessments and assignments may be weighted more heavily based on each one's significance and expectations.**

HOMEWORK POLICY

WHY DO I ASSIGN HOMEWORK?

Homework is important because it is a valuable tool in helping students make the most of the experience in school. Homework helps reinforce what has been learned in class, prepares students for upcoming lessons, teaches responsibility, and helps students develop positive study habits. It is one of the school-wide goals.

WHEN WILL HOMEWORK BE ASSIGNED?

Homework will be assigned most nights Monday through Thursday nights. Assignments should take no more than 30 minutes to complete each night. Students should also read at least 20 minutes every night.

WHAT ARE YOUR CHILD'S HOMEWORK RESPONSIBILITIES?

Students are expected to do their best job on each homework assignment. It is expected that homework be neat, not sloppy. All written portions should be done in **pencil**. Students should write their names on all assignments. Homework is expected to be

completely finished by class time the following morning. Consequences may be given for incomplete assignments and late/missing assignments.

AS A PARENT'S PLEASE REMEMBER.

Parents are the key to making homework a positive experience for their children. Therefore, it is asked that you make homework a top priority, provide the necessary supplies and a quiet homework environment, set aside a time everyday when homework should be done, provide praise and support, not allow your child to avoid doing homework and contact the teacher if you notice a problem. Parents should check all homework and sign the homework sheet each night. There may be times when keys are provided for additional guidance at home. If there is a legitimate reason why a student is unable to finish an assignment, please send a note to school on the date the homework is due stating the reason it was not completed. The parent must sign the note. Parents will be contacted if homework is not consistently complete.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Las Brisas in an EQ school. However, in order to have an environment in which all students have the opportunity to learn and grow, it is necessary to implement a strong, positive discipline plan. The following behavior guidelines, in addition the Las Brisas campus rules, will enable all of the students to have such an environment. I encourage the use of the 6 pillars of character.

Trustworthiness

Be honest • Don't deceive, cheat, or steal • Be reliable — do what you say you'll do • Have the courage to do the right thing • Build a good reputation • Be loyal — stand by your family, friends, and country

Respect

Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule • Be tolerant and accepting of differences • Use good manners, not bad language • Be considerate of the feelings of others • Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone • Deal peacefully with anger, insults, and disagreements

Responsibility

Do what you are supposed to do • Plan ahead • Persevere: keep on trying! • Always do your best • Use self-control • Be self-disciplined • Think before you act —consider the consequences • Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes • Set a good example for others

Fairness

Play by the rules • Take turns and share • Be open-minded; listen to others • Don't take advantage of others • Don't blame others carelessly • Treat all people fairly

Caring

Be kind • Be compassionate and show you care • Express gratitude • Forgive others • Help people in need

Citizenship

Do your share to make your school and community better • Cooperate • Get involved in community affairs • Stay informed; vote • Be a good neighbor • Obey laws and rules • Respect authority • Protect the environment • Volunteer

If interventions are not sufficient or behavior is more severe, a student will be subject to a consequence. Appropriate consequence will be given based on the situation, individual need of the student(s) and teacher discretion. Examples of consequences that may be used are:

- Conference with teacher
- Self-reflection time/ work completion during recess or lunch

We will have a chart in class where all students will know where they are. The students begin with a clean slate in the classroom every day, and can students can move both ways (up or down) during the day. School discipline forms will be recorded and addressed as explained in the school discipline plan. It is more important to teach a child personal responsibility and self-discipline through problem solving than to issue a consequence for every mistake made. A lot of time is spent in communication with each other, creating an understanding that each child is responsible for the choices they make and how to avoid wrong choices in the future. Parents will be notified daily of their child's behavior through the following color chart. Students will be asked to mark their calendars each day. Outstanding day – pink, Super Job – purple, Great Day – blue, Ready to Learn – green, Reminder – yellow, Teacher's Choice – orange, Parent Contact – red. Parents will be notified as the consequence(s) warrant it, including when behavior is more severe or there is a pattern of behavior that needs to be addressed. Parents, teachers and the student work as a team to promote positive behavior.

Please feel free to reach out to me at any time. We are team!