

What You Need to Know: Second Grade Edition

★ Please keep this document for future reference.

My Teaching Style

I try to have kids up and around as much as possible- it is something I am still working on. I find that singing, creating, and telling stories helps students learn and remember information. I am a strong believer that developing a solid relationship with each student greatly affects their learning and overall school experience. I try to give students choices when it comes to what they will read and write about.

Grading

A large percent of my grading comes from daily, informal assessment. The wonderful thing about having a smaller class size is that I can very quickly get to know them as a person and a student. You will see a star, smiley, or checkmark to acknowledge a student's work. I am working on creating time for student reflection and remediation.

Report Cards

Each quarter you will receive your child's report card along with additional information about their progress. The first quarter ends right before Conferences, so we will have time to discuss your child's progress in person. For this reason, you will receive information on your student's learning behaviors only. After the second quarter, you will receive a written report of your second grader's learning behaviors and academic progress. Third quarter report cards will be sent home with a student reflection, and for the fourth quarter, you will again receive a written report from me.

Homework

I am not a huge fan of homework. I believe kids should have lots of time to play when they are done with school for the day. However, our math curriculum provides a practice book that I'd like to take advantage of. Most nights, your child will have a page to complete in their practice book. This will be a good chance for you to see what we are working on in math, and should not take more than 10 minutes to complete.

Communication

- My email: jbonttrager@bethanycs.net
- Phone: 574-534-2567, Ext. 419
- Sometimes I will send a paper home with information you need to know. I will post the information on our website (<https://sites.google.com/bethanycs.net/bcssecondgrade25-26/home>). There will be a link to our website on the Bethany website.
- Website:

I do my very best to keep our website up to date with information and photos. Please get in the habit of checking it frequently. There will be a link to the Bethany website from which you can gain access to our class website.

Take Home Folders: Most weeks your child will bring home their folder with all the work from the week (or week before) on Friday. Please remind them to empty it, and put it back in their backpack.

- I will use SeeSaw to send individual and whole group information.

Behavior

My behavior plan is based on Marvin Marshall's book, Discipline Without Stress, Punishments, or Rewards. I like this model because it encourages students to reflect on what kind of person they want to be, and center their choices on that. It's a very reflective approach to helping students move toward maturity. I will teach them about the four behavior levels at school. A paper explaining the levels will come home.

If a student has a hard time making positive choices, they will be given a reflection paper to fill out at school. It will come home for you to discuss with them, sign, and return.

Birthdays

I love to celebrate birthdays in second grade. If you would like to send a treat on or around their birthday, I would just appreciate a heads up. Most days we can make time at the end of our day (around 2:45) to have a short celebration.

Daily Snacks

Bethany will provide a snack for students each day (pretzels, tortilla chips, and goldfish). You are welcome to send an additional snack with your child, I just ask that it is not messy, and that it is not candy.

National/International/World Holidays

During the pandemic shut down I was teaching 4th grade in Middlebury. I latched onto the idea of celebrating the "off the beaten path" holidays as a way to bring a little fun into the day. I've done this the past three years at Bethany, and it's been a hit. So, everyday I'll present a holiday in our morning circle time. Often, celebrating the holiday will take less than 10 minutes. If it lends itself to a skill/topic/activity that I think is particularly beneficial (or fun), it might take longer. I have heard from previous parents that asking your child what the national holiday for the day was can also spark interesting conversations.



Looking forward to a great year with your kids!

-Jen

Please scan to tell me more about your child.