

Welcome to the 2019-2020 School Year!

Habits and Areas of Study

While the children have each come into Second Grade with their own strengths, talents, and abilities, it is important for us not to “capitalize on what is already deemed a strength, neglecting areas in need of real maturation.” (*When Children Love to Learn*, pg.88) In this process, strengths are built upon and weaknesses are developed in an effort to help each child to become a well-rounded individual. Our goal is to form relationships with the children while instilling in them habits that will *help* them. “In focusing on performance alone, the child can fall into lines of thought that lead to perfectionism, competitiveness, obsessiveness, guilt, and depression.” (*When Children Love to Learn*, pg.99) Therefore, at school we will focus on the child as a whole and introduce habits as the need arises. Lately, we’ve been working on **attention, self-discipline, respect, responsibility, remembering, and neatness and order**. Habits take time to form, so during those times when a habit is not being practiced as it should be, the child does not experience humiliation or contrived punishments, but instead natural consequences.

As Ms. Mason did, we use “the following steps ordered by St. Augustine as a motto to rise above the faults and weaknesses to higher things in the formation of habits:”

- “I am.” We have the power of knowing ourselves
- “I can.” We are conscious of power to do what we perceive we ought to do.”
- “I ought.” We have within us a moral judge to whom we feel ourselves subject, who points out and requires of us our duty.”
- “I will.” We determine to exercise that power with a volition that is in itself a step in the execution of what we will.”

(*When Children Love to Learn*, p. 88)

Birthdays

We look forward to celebrating birthdays in our classroom. If your child would like to celebrate a birthday, feel free to have him/her bring in a class treat for the special day. Please email or call your teacher at least a week in advance to discuss plans. Please bring 20 of the same thing (check with your child’s teacher to see if there are any allergies in the class).

If you are going to have your child pass out birthday invitations at school, make sure all children are invited (or all girls/boys). If you are only inviting a few, please do so outside of school hours as we will not be able to hand them out during the day.

Purple Homework Folder / Blue Math Folder

The purple and the blue math homework folders should come home with your child daily. Please **check them every night** for any important paper correspondence as well as homework.

On most days, we complete a Saxon math lesson. We typically complete side A together in class, and time permitting, the students may start side B individually. If your child brings home an incomplete Side B, please allow your child to complete it to ensure he or she understands the concepts. If your child really struggles with a particular concept, please communicate that with their teacher via email or circle the concept and write the teacher a note on the math sheet. Math homework is due back the day after the lesson has been taught.

Second Grade Book Talks

1st Semester (dates TBA): Biography

2nd Semester (dates TBA): Nonfiction

Communication

We believe in having an open door for you to come and talk with us. We will communicate to you what is going on at school and we appreciate information that would help us be more sensitive to your child. Please recognize that we are not always able to check our email during the school day. Feel free to call the main office if you have a message for us or your child during the day. We look forward to speaking with you at Parent/Teacher Conferences in October!

Emily Parker	Room 104	eparker@asd20.org	Ext 4104
Libby Johnson	Room 105	ejohnson@asd20.org	Ext 4105
Abbey Harlan	Room 108	aharlan@asd20.org	Ext 4108
JoAnna Ghee	Room 109	jghee@asd20.org	Ext 4109
Becky Wade	Room 112	rwade@asd20.org	Ext 4112

Special Events

Water Wonders (classroom presentation) – October 1st

Rock Ledge Ranch Field Trip – October 24th

Constitution Day (dress-up day**) – October 25th**

Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* Field Trip– November 15th

Pioneer Day (dress-up day**) –December 20th**

Philharmonic Field Trip – February 13th

Civil War Day – March 13th

Fire Safety (classroom presentation) – April (TBD)

Immigration Day (dress-up day**) – April 17th**

Critter Classification (classroom presentation) – TBD

Tour Around the World – May 14th and 15th

Civil Right Leaders

Susan B. Anthony

Eleanor Roosevelt

Mary McLeod Bethune

Martin Luther King Jr.

Rosa Parks

Cesar Chavez

Jackie Robinson

2nd grade schedule (M-Th)

8:05- Morning procedures

8:15- Pledge & Life Music

8:30- Spelling

9:40- Snack

9:45- Read Aloud

10:00- Recess

10:20- Math

11:05- Core Knowledge (History/Science)

11:50- Lunch recess

12:00- Lunch (Wed: in classroom)

12:25- Reading groups

1:30- Recess

1:45- Pack-Up/Snack

2:00- Literature

2:30- Specials

3:30- Dismissal & Carpool