

Welcome to Second Grade!

September 2011

Dear Parents,

The second grade staff has an exciting year planned. We are committed to providing a successful and motivating second grade experience for all of our students. We feel that parental support and involvement are important parts of a child's educational experience. We hope to create a strong student-teacher-parent connection this year. This letter will provide you with information to ensure that your child's transition to second grade is a smooth one.

Communication - Home/school communication is essential. We use the following methods to encourage on-going communication between teachers and parents.

Monthly Newsletter - A monthly second grade newsletter will provide you with information pertaining to the subjects we are studying. We will include information on upcoming projects, field trips, and special activities. Our newsletter will be posted on the Meadow Park website <http://www.iusd.org/mp> Just click on Grade Levels and then Second Grade. We will send an email reminder when a new monthly newsletter is posted.

Weekly Work - a "VIP" (Very Important Papers) envelope with your child's completed work and important school notices will be sent home every Thursday beginning September 29. Please make it a practice to review these papers with your child and praise him/her for his/her efforts. A yellow communication sheet will be included where questions or comments can be noted. The envelope and signed communication sheet need to be returned to school the following day, Friday.

Much of our daily work is done as part of an on-going project or activity. Consequently, there may be times when you do not see much work coming home. We display our completed work in class books or on our bulletin boards. You are welcome to visit our classrooms to see your child's work.

Please feel free to e-mail, send a note to school, or call anytime you have a question or something to discuss.

Homework - The purpose of requiring homework is to develop responsibility and study habits appropriate for second grade. Homework material will review skills and concepts already presented in the classroom.

Please support our efforts by providing a quiet area, time, and materials dedicated to homework. A desk is wonderful, but a box with pencils, crayons, scissors, tablet of wide-lined paper, ruler, and eraser will do fine. We realize that many children are involved in outside activities, which may affect their homework time on certain days. Therefore, we

send a weekly homework contract home each Monday and require it back on Friday by 8:10 a.m.

The first homework contract will be sent home Monday, September 26. Your child may require your help for the first few weeks, but should soon establish a routine and require only occasional guidance. Our eventual goal is that children complete the homework independently. We will review the weekly homework contract at Back to School Night on September 22.

Materials - A Grade Level Supply List was sent home in June and is posted on the Meadow Park website as well as on the second grade web page. In addition, a copy is attached for your convenience.

Other Information - School begins promptly at 8:10 a.m. for all grades. Please reinforce the importance of punctuality with your child. Children miss instruction and disrupt others when they arrive late.

Back to School Night is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, September 22. At this time we will give an in-depth presentation of our program and it is important that you plan to attend (even if you have previously had a child in second grade). You will also have an opportunity to sign up to volunteer to help in our classrooms and to make an appointment for a goal setting conference (which will be held the week of October 10.) If you would like to volunteer before the formal schedule is set, please contact your child's teacher. We appreciate all those who have time to offer. Also, if you have concerns or questions that need to be addressed before Back to School Night, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

We look forward to getting to know each of you and sharing an exciting second grade year with you and your child.

Thank you,
Cindy Kambak, Megan Kennerson, and Lisa Richardson