

August 27, 2009

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of the 2009-2010 school year for your second grader at St. John Fisher School! We are looking forward to a great year of learning with your child.. There are a few things we would like to go over with you concerning the curriculum, classroom rules, and homework policy. **After reading this letter please fill out the form at the end and return it as soon as possible.**

Religion

Besides our regular religion series, the children will be studying two sacraments this year. The first is Reconciliation and the second is First Holy Communion which is scheduled for May 1st. Both of these sacraments are very important days in the life of your child and we look forward to preparing your child for them. You will be given more information about these two special days as it becomes available. Please encourage your child to attend Mass regularly as part of their preparation for the reception of these two sacraments.

English

The addition of English to your child's curriculum is a little overwhelming at first. We would ask that you go over the English worksheets with your child and make sure that they understand the new concepts. We will work on sentence structure and various parts of speech including nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and pronouns.

Reading

The reading series is divided into different themes and the stories are entire selections from popular children's authors. In addition, several paperback novels will be read throughout the year.

Spelling

This year we will be using a formal spelling book, as well as, word wall words to supplement the weekly spelling words. Word wall words are common second grade sight words. Your child will bring the spelling word list home each Monday to be written four times each as part of Monday night's homework. It would be helpful to give a practice test each week at home. Words will be marked wrong if they are misspelled, if the letter is formed incorrectly, or if capitals letters are used inappropriately.

Science and Social Studies

The science curriculum includes the study of the solar system, the human body, and nutrition. In social studies we will be studying communities, developing map skills, learning about local, state, and federal governments, and discussing early American history. Unit quizzes and chapter tests will be given.

Math

The math curriculum includes the mastery of addition and subtraction facts through 18, time, money, geometry, introduction to multiplication and division, and addition and subtraction of two digit numbers. Please review the math facts to 12 during the first trimester.

Handwriting

Manuscript writing will be reviewed during the first trimester. Cursive writing will be taught beginning after Christmas. We will be covering the lower case letters only.

Our lunch is the second lunch period. It is scheduled from 11:00 – 11:20

Our special schedule is

Monday – Gym - Mr. Schroeder
Tuesday - Computer - Mrs. Maxwell
Wednesday - Mass
Thursday- Art/Library - Mrs. Newman/Mrs. Funk
Friday - Music – Mrs. VanderWoude

Classroom Procedures

The classroom procedures have been explained and are reviewed regularly. If a child misbehaves or misses a homework assignment they will receive a check on the discipline card that is attached to their home folder. A child will miss 5 minutes of recess for each check received during the day. **The cards should be signed by a parent on Thursday and returned to school on Friday.**

Homework

The homework assignments your child brings home each night are an important part of his/her education. Homework provides students with opportunities to develop good study habits and practice new skills. If four homework assignments are missed in trimester your child will receive a check on the report card.

We will be following the policy in the Parent Student Handbook regarding missed assignments (see page 11 in the handbook.) We will allow the student time when he/she returns to school to complete the missed assignments. Please check the student planner daily. They will be checked periodically by the homeroom teacher to make sure the students are using them.

Encourage your child to read at least 15 minutes each night. Please make sure your child has adequate supplies at all times. Pencils and crayons wear down, break and get lost. They need to be replaced often.

Finally, if your child is absent please phone the office that morning and send a note explaining the absence when he/she returns to school. Also, if your child would like to bring a treat on his/her birthday feel free to send one.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year of learning with your child. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Ms. Meghan Earner, Mrs. Mary Nitsche, Mrs. Beth Paluch

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Thank you.
