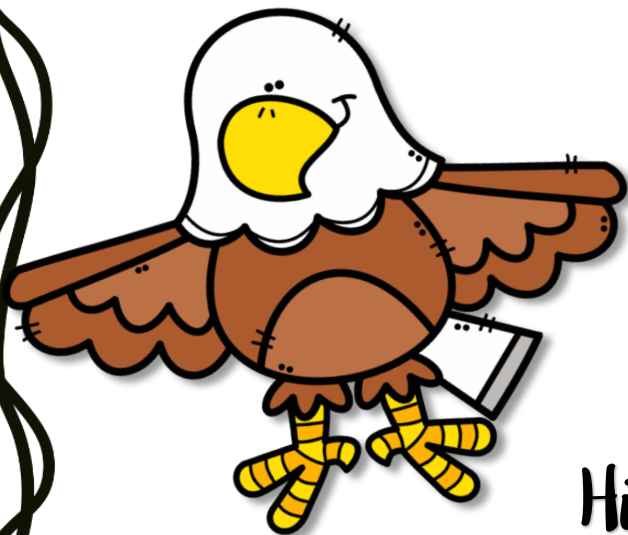


the **A** **B** **C**'S
OF
second
GRADE



A PARENT HANDBOOK
2019-2020

Mrs. Ippolito
Hickory Grove Elementary

DEAR PARENTS,

Welcome to 2nd grade at Hickory Grove Elementary! I hope you're looking forward to a great year. I know that I certainly am!

I've prepared this parent handbook to give you an overview of the subject matter, procedures, and expectations throughout the course of the year in 2nd grade.

Classroom information, updates, and interactive learning websites can be found on the class our class website:

<http://mrsippy.weebly.com/> Please refer to this link as often as possible! It is updated regularly.

You can find my contact information listed in this handbook as well. Please feel free to contact me with questions and/or concerns as needed. I'm anticipating a fun year full of excitement and amazing student growth!

THANK YOU,
Mrs. Ippolito



ACCELERATED READER

Students select and read books of their choice and take computerized tests when they finish reading. The program keeps track of all the tests taken and points earned for each participating student. The multiple choice tests are made up of 5 or 10 comprehension and recall questions. After completing a test, the student is shown how many questions were answered correctly. The program shows the answers for the questions missed and awards reading points to the student's record.

How will your child use AR?

2nd grade will set AR goals for each quarter. Scores will be sent home often so students can track their progress towards their goal. Time is given in class almost every day to silent read during Reader's Workshop. Students are also allowed to read if they finish assignments early. Students will have many opportunities to take AR tests since they will have access to their own chromebook. You can help your child by looking up the quiz numbers for any books read at home by Googling "AR BOOK FINDER". You just type in the title of the book or the author to receive the quiz number. Send a paper with the quiz numbers of the books read at home with your child.

ATTENDANCE

Please see that your child arrives to school on time. Students are taken to classrooms by 7:40 AM. I stress the importance of being on time to hear important announcements. If tardy, your child is likely to feel overwhelmed by his/her workload.



BATHROOM BREAKS

2I will take one morning restroom break and one afternoon restroom break daily. I also tell students to use the restroom during their lunch and lunch recess break time. I allow students to use the restroom during independent work times. I encourage students to go after they eat lunch before they go outside for lunch recess. If your child has a health issue which requires him/her to use the restroom frequently, please let me know.

BIRTHDAY TREATS

Hickory Grove allows birthday treats to be sent to school. If it's a heavy load, feel free to drop them off in the office in the morning. The snacks or treats **MUST** be individually wrapped and cannot be homemade. We have 23 students. Refer to the paper about safe birthday treats to send in. We will sing to your child on his/her actual birthday. If your child's birthday falls on a day when school is not in session, please email me a date you would like them to celebrate. I celebrate all summer birthdays in September. However, if your child keeps track of his/her half birthday, feel free to let me know and I'm happy to celebrate at that time. Please do not send it treats without letting me know first!

BOOK ORDERS

I usually send home a book order every month (with the exception of HGES Book Fair Month). If you decide to purchase books, I ask that you order on-line or send the book order with a check written to Scholastic or cash labeled in a baggy or envelope.

BOX TOPS

SAVE! SAVE! SAVE! Box Tops help earn money for our school. Please save them and send them to school with your child. There is a special place in our classroom for them. The classroom with the most box tops at the end of the year earns a special party. It's really special!!

COMMUNICATION

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Email will be the best way to reach me throughout the day, but phone calls are encouraged when necessary. After reviewing this packet, please let me know any questions you have about the content.

Email: mippolito@dunlapcusd.net

HGES phone number: 309-243-8711

Weebly: <http://mrsippy.weebly.com/>

HGES Facebook Page: Hickory Grove Elementary School

#HGESHawks

Class Dojo: www.classdojo.com (refer to parent handout)



DISMISSAL

Please let me know if there will be any changes in the way your child will be getting home. The best way to let me know is to send a note with your child, or email me. Without a note informing me of a change, your child will be sent home their normal way.

On Wednesdays, we will dismiss at 2:15 p.m. Our staff will be participating in Professional Learning Communities (PLC) after students leave.



EXPECTATIONS/CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT PLAN

Each student is responsible for making the classroom one in which everyone can think and learn. This includes respecting others' ideas and differences, using indoor talking voices, listening when others are talking, saving play for recess, keeping hands and feet to themselves, and giving their BEST effort in class. I believe modeling respect and good character cultivates a positive classroom environment. Encouragement and praise is part of my daily teaching.

It is necessary for me to minimize disruptions in the classroom to allow each student the best learning environment possible.

ANYTHING that impedes the learning of a child is considered a disruption. Any action in the school/classroom that compromises the respect and safety of each and every individual will be dealt with effectively.

I will be using Class Dojo to manage behavior. Hopefully you received the instructions on how to set it up. If you are new to Class Dojo, it is a website that allows teachers to track positive and negative behavior of students. Parents are able to view their child's awards and skills to work on daily. The class as a group will also be rewarded for following the classroom/school expectations. Positive

discipline and encouragement is used on a regular basis in my classroom. In some cases, it will be necessary for me to message you on the Class Dojo website, call you, or email you regarding your child's behavior. Otherwise, the Class Dojo website is how I will communicate about your child's day. Please turn on the "PUSH NOTIFICATIONS" in your Class Dojo settings so you receive my messages instantly. I will use Class Dojo as a communication tool as well.

FIELD TRIPS

One way the district is reducing costs throughout the district is to limit field trips to two or less per year. Therefore, we will go on two field trips this year. We will go to the Hult Health Education Center on Mon., Jan. 8th to attend a program called Healthland in which students will learn more about their health. In April or the beginning of May, we will go to Wildlife Prairie Park for most of the school day. You will receive more details about these field trips closer to the time.

GRADES

Report cards are similar to 1st grade. There will be no letter grades, rather a number (1-4) scale. The first time that your child will receive a report card will be at parent/teacher conferences.

The scores breakdown as follows:

4-Exceeds Standards: In depth understanding and application that goes beyond standards.

3- Meets Standards: Understands and applies key concepts, processes, and skills.

2- Approaching Standards: Beginning to understand and apply key concepts, processes, and skills.

1- Below Standards: Not understanding key concepts, processes, and essential skills.

Blank: Not assessed at this time.

The goal is for every child to receive a "3" in an areas and/or skill by the end of the school year

Progress reports come home halfway through the first quarter. Each quarter is 9 weeks long. After the first progress report, they will only be sent home to students who need it. If your child doesn't receive one, don't worry!



HOMEWORK

In 2nd Grade, the primary homework will be reading each evening and completing a weekly reading log with a reading response activity. It will be sent home on a Monday and is due by Friday. I ask that students read at least 20 minutes each night. If you have a busy evening activity schedule like many of us, find creative ways to get that reading time in. Have your child read to you: before bedtime, in the car, while making dinner, etc... Students will also be asked to practice math facts for 5-10 minutes each night to keep up with their fact fluency.

Your child is responsible for his/her homework. No one is perfect! There will most likely be a time when your child doesn't get his/her homework turned in on the due date. If this happens, your child simply completes the assignment during recess time. Many students often do the homework, but forget it at home. To be consistent, I have all students make up missing homework at a recess, regardless of whether it was already done at home or not.

The Second Step Program is the curriculum that Dunlap uses in order to meet children's social and emotional needs. Most weeks, 2nd grade will teach one lesson. Some of the lessons have an activity called a "Home Link" that is to be completed with the parent and child at home. The Home Link activities are optional.

Later on in the school year, cursive homework will be sent home. Cursive will be done at home via video learning. More information will be sent home as the time gets closer. Please do not introduce any cursive letters to your child before we begin cursive at school.

There may be a few 2nd Grade projects that your child will have an opportunity to complete at home with your guidance. I plan to give you plenty of notice with these projects.

I give students work time to complete assignments in class. However, if for some reason students don't finish the assignment in

class, I almost always allow them to take it home to finish so they don't have to miss recess. I will mark it as "unfinished work". That means, it is homework and must be returned the following day unless I've said differently.



LIBRARY

Our library time is on Fridays from 12:40 – 1:05. Students are allowed to pick out one book. They have 1 week to keep the book at home. If your child doesn't return the book on his/her library day, then he/she is not allowed to check out a new book.

LUNCH

Lunch and Lunch Recess is from 11:35-12:15. Please send lunch money in a labeled envelope. The label should include your child's first/last name and class (2I). You can also use Cafe Prepay to add money to your child's lunch account. This link can be found on the Dunlap website. School lunch is \$2.20 per day. If your child wishes to receive an extra carton of milk (w/hot lunch) or would like to purchase a carton of milk with their cold lunch the charge is \$0.45. Water is \$0.60. Chef Salad \$2.20 (includes: They have cheese, lettuce, crackers or tortilla chips, cucumbers, carrots and tomatoes; plus milk and fruit). Adult lunches are \$3.25. Please contact me or the office in advance.



MATH

We will be using Math in Focus along with our scope and sequence following the Common Core State Standards. An important component of math is basic addition and subtraction facts through 20. We do our best to drill, drill, and drill. However, your one-on-one help at home with math facts can make a huge difference in your child's success. Place value, problem solving, mental math, double-digit addition and subtraction, money, time, and measurement are some of the skills that will be covered this year.



OWNERSHIP OF STUDENT LEARNING

Our school's vision states that our students will continuously excel in a global society by being...

- Self-motivated learners
- Critical thinkers
- Effective communicators
- Skilled collaborators
- Responsible and culturally aware citizens
- Technologically capable creators

Part of excelling in a global society includes taking ownership of the learning process and academic growth. Student-Led Conferences help our students become effective communicators and skilled collaborators. 2nd Graders will be leading a conference in the fall with their parents and Mrs. Ippy.



POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

A positive learning environment is essential for student success. We accomplish a positive learning environment in 2I by starting off each morning with a morning meeting. During this meeting, we teach and discuss social-emotional curriculum. Morning meetings help start our days off on a positive note and also allow an opportunity for students to communicate with one another about topics that are not always academic. Overall, morning meetings encourage social skills and overall contribute to the positive learning environment of our classroom.



READING

Reading is the **MOST** important subject in second grade. All subjects are integral, but if your child is unable to read a math story problem, a social studies activity sheet, or the lifecycle of a butterfly, then the other subjects don't hold much value.

There are 5 main areas taught and assessed in reading: Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary, Comprehension, and Reading Strategies. In the classroom, reading will be taught in a variety of

ways, including a reader's workshop approach to literacy. I've also planned a "Read Aloud" time each day where I will read short stories or chapter books. Students will have the opportunity to read aloud stories/parts of stories to the class or partners. During Reader's Workshop, I will instruct small groups at their reading level while students interact with reading in creative ways.



SCIENCE & SOCIAL STUDIES

This is our 3rd year with the FOSS Science curriculum that focus on the NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards). It will be interactive, inquiry-based, and student driven. Please check the classroom Weebly website for all curriculum information.

In Social Studies we have themes that will be covered throughout the school year. Again, please check the classroom Weebly website for more specific information.

SNACKS/WATER BOTTLES

Students are allowed to bring an individual, healthy, morning snack (no candy/sweets please). Please send a small amount and an easy (not messy) snack. Water bottles are allowed. Some water bottles spill easier than others. Please make sure that your child's water bottle is sealed tightly.

SPELLING

Each week students will have a different spelling pattern we will focus on. At the end of the week, we will assess them by reading sentences out loud in which students will write what we say on their paper. You can access my website for spelling practice websites!



TEAMWORK

I am really looking forward to working with you to make this a terrific year for your child! Please don't hesitate to contact me for any reason. My email is mippolito@dunlapcusd.net and Hickory Grove's number is 309-243-8711. I want to do whatever I can to

make your child's 2nd grade experience the most successful one possible.

U

UNFINISHED & MAKE UP WORK

Our 2nd Grade curriculum doesn't include much paperwork. There is no substitute for being at school. However, I will do my best to send home what I can to keep your child from falling behind when he/she is absent. Please contact the front office if your child is sick by phone or email. If you e-mail, please copy me in your email to let me know your child is sick. Our school secretaries are: Mrs. Koehler (bkoehler@dunlapcusd.net) & Mrs. Lieber (jlieber@dunlapcusd.net)

You can request to have the work sent home with a sibling, friend, or sent to the office to be picked up. I always attempt to send make-up work home with a sibling or neighbor if that is an option. Please complete any work with your child and return to school as soon as possible. If for some reason, it doesn't get completed, please send the work back to school and I will make sure he/she finishes the next day so they don't get too far behind.

If you know ahead of time that your child will be absent for 3 or more days, please let me know in advance. Your child's missed work will be given to them once they get back since there is no guarantee what we will get through while they are gone.

W

WRITING

Second graders will be writing a great deal this year. Grammar, the writing process, and writing traits will be taught in writing. Each week students will learn a new skill in grammar. Types of sentences, parts of sentences, and parts of speech are some examples. Each theme focuses on a particular part of the writing process or writing trait. I model writing, we write together, and then students write on their own in Writer's Workshop. There will always be a rubric attached to the writing pieces that come home. Please read and discuss this with your child; I can assure you that your child worked really hard on what they wrote.