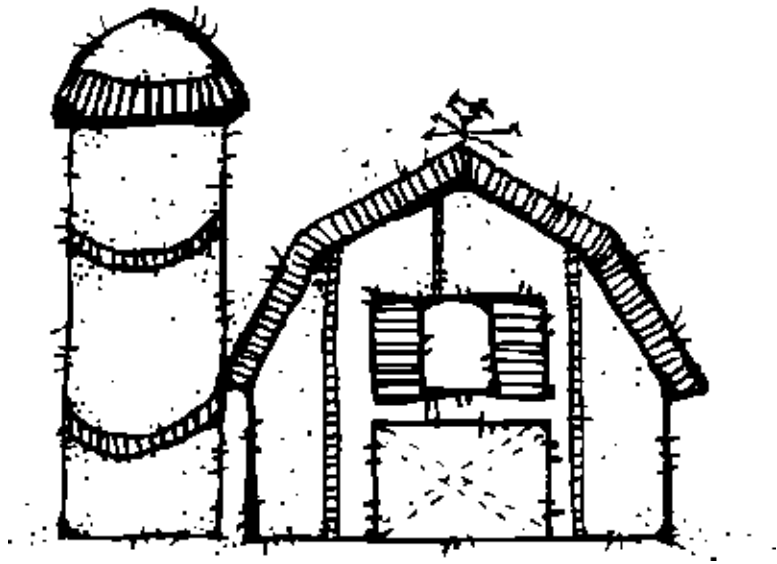


Mrs. Farmer's Parent Handbook



2nd Grade
2012-2013

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Why 2nd grade is so great...

- * 7 year olds come in reading picture books... and 8 year olds leave reading chapter books!
- * Antsy, wiggly kids come to 2nd grade and they can sit for 5 minutes... grown-up, patient kids get ready for third grade and they can sit for 25 minutes!
- * Wobbly manuscript handwriting almost fits on 1 inch tall lines at the beginning of the year... small, precise manuscript makes fingers just itch to start writing in cursive at the end of the year!
- * Little mathematicians can add $2 + 5$ at the beginning of the year... but they are ready for multiplication and division by the end of the year!
- * Little scientists know about mammals, fish, and birds when they come to 2nd grade... but they leave being able to explain the entire water cycle.
- * 4 foot tall kids come in writing a few sentences... and 4 foot, 3 inch tall kids leave writing paragraphs!
- * 2nd grade is a year FULL of learning, growing, and changing... it is an incredible year, and I'm so happy and excited to be your child's teacher!

Adapted from Mrs. Christina Bainbridge's website: <http://teacherweb.com/MI/CentralElementarySchool/MrsBainbridge/h0.stm>

Always remember:

You are your child's first and most important teacher.

Please KEEP this handbook as a reference guide to our classroom policies and procedures.

Policies and Procedures

Agendas

Your child will have an agenda this year. They will record their homework in this agenda. If there are any behavior issues, I will write a note in the agenda as well. Please check your child's agenda each day and sign after reviewing it. This is a great way for us to communicate. Feel free to write me a note and I will respond that same day if possible.

Attendance

School begins promptly at 7:30 a.m. Much of our learning will take place together in class. We do lots of hands-on activities and group work. Being present and on time is essential to your child's learning. However, things sometimes happen. If your child is late, please have him/her go to the office to receive a tardy slip. If your child is absent, you are required to send a note. If a note is not received by the 5th day, it will be reported as an unexcused absence.

Birthdays

Birthdays are special, and we want to recognize your child on his/her birthday! As a class, we will sing and make cards— this builds classroom community. Although it is not required, if you would like to send in a treat for the class on your child's birthday, please let me know in advance (1-2 days) so that I can plan accordingly.

Changes in Afternoon Transportation

I must have a note signed by you (or another designated person on your child's registration form) if your child is to be going home a different way. You may also go to the office and communicate a change in transportation. No phone calls will be accepted! There are absolutely NO exceptions to this rule— your child's safety is my primary concern!

Class Books

As part of our emphasis on writing, we will work as a class to create "Class Books." Each child will contribute a page to the book, and all children will have the opportunity to take the books home to read with you. This gives you a chance to see your child's progress. Please share in the enthusiasm when your child brings a class book home— it will make all the difference to him/her.

Class Library

Your child will have plenty of opportunities to visit the school library throughout the week. However, there may be times when the library is closed or we are so busy that we don't have time to go. When these occasions occur, your child will be able to check out a book from our class library. Our library contains Guided Reading leveled books in addition to other books divided into reading genres. Only one book may be checked out at a time. Your child is responsible for bringing the book back to school so that others may enjoy it also. If books are not returned to school, you may be required to reimburse the cost of the book and your child may lose borrowing privileges. The class library creates an opportunity to teach children about responsibilities and taking care of others' belongings. Please reinforce this at home as much as possible. Also, if you have books that you would like to donate to our class library, please let me know. Donations are always accepted!

Class Newsletter

I will send home a newsletter each month to inform you of upcoming events/plans for that month. The newsletter will also contain a preview of upcoming lessons, any birthdays, and an ongoing class wish list. Please read this newsletter thoroughly, as it contains pertinent information.

Class Webpage

You may find our class webpage by going to <http://www.lle.rcs.k12.tn.us/Teachers/farmerel/farmerel.htm> I will do my best to update the webpage monthly, including the current newsletter and upcoming events. The webpage can also be an excellent way for long-distance friends and family to see what your child is doing at school! Feel free to share our link!

Copies

Please let me know if you can help make copies for our class. We are only allowed 800 copies per month.

Discipline Policy

Please refer to your child's agenda for the complete discipline policy for LLE. In our school, we use a code violation system for managing behavior both in the classroom and throughout the rest of the building. A list of code violations can be found on the front cover of your child's agenda. As mentioned in the Agenda section, I will communicate behavior issues in the agenda when/if they occur. In our classroom, I also use a ticket system to promote positive behaviors. Students are given tickets throughout the day when I notice them doing something good. They can "cash in" their tickets by entering them in the Daily Drawing. Or they can save tickets and "cash in" a lump sum at one time. At the end of each day, I (or a student volunteer) will draw a winning ticket from the drawing bucket and that student will receive a quarter to use in our classroom prize machine. This method of encouraging positive behaviors works wonders as students LOVE to get prizes from the prize machine!

F.A.R.M. Folders

Your child will have a white 3-ring notebook called the F.A.R.M. folder (For Assignments, Reports, and More). It will contain a zippered pouch, page protectors (for our monthly newsletter, school calendar, weekly poem, and Lucky Listener signature page), your child's agenda, and a folder for finished work. Please check this notebook DAILY! In it you will find homework, graded work, and all other important papers. Money and permission slips need to be placed in the zippered pouch located in the front of the folder. Please put all money in the labeled envelope provided! Please see "Lunch" section for more info about labeling.

Field Trips

We will take several field trips this year. Parents are always welcome to attend as chaperones (in fact, I encourage you to attend at least one field trip with your child!). Since field trips are designed to compliment and extend your child's learning, siblings will not be allowed to accompany us. While students are required to ride a provided bus, parent chaperones are asked to provide their own transportation due to space limitations. Permission slips must be signed and returned to school by the due date in order to ensure your child's participation.

Grading Policy

We will have 4 nine-week grading periods this year. Grades are determined through a combination of independent classwork, homework, teacher observations, and other forms of assessment. Your child will be graded on mastery vs. nonmastery (on a scale of 1-4), rather than number grades. This will give you, as the parent, a better indication of which areas your child excels in and which areas you can help strengthen at home.

Homework

This year, your child will have homework to complete at home. Students will be responsible for completing a Word Study packet each week in order to practice spelling/high-frequency words, a math page, and a language page. Each activity is designed to strengthen skills we've already learned in class. In addition, students are required to read for 15-20 minutes per night. Please set aside time each night to complete these activities with your child.

Lunch

Please send me a note if you will be joining your child for lunch. I will let the cafeteria know so they can plan accordingly. In order to promote healthy eating practices, I ask that you please not bring fast food or sodas for your child. When sending lunch money for your child, please remember the following:

- * Please put all lunch money in the provided baggie in the zippered pouch of your child's F.A.R.M. folder.
- * Lunch is \$2.00 for students; \$3.00 for visitors.
- * Ice cream can be purchased for an additional cost.
- * Please limit ice cream to Fridays only.

Missing Assignments

Students are required to make up any missed assignments, either in class or at home. Any assignments that are not turned in will be completed by your child during L.O.P. time (Loss of Privilege), which will be held during recess.

Morning Meeting

This year, your child will be participating in Morning Meeting. This is a time set aside each day that will build classroom community, set a positive tone, increase excitement about learning, and improve social and academic skills. Every day, Morning Meeting lets children know that school is a safe place where all children's ideas and feelings are important.

Parent Conferences

I will be glad to meet with you to discuss an issue/concern pertaining to your child. Please give me advance notice (2-3 days) so that we can work out a time that will be convenient to both of us. I will do the same when requesting a meeting with you. There will also be two school-wide parent/teacher conference times— one in October and one in March. All parents are invited to attend these conferences. We will discuss your child's progress and how you can help him/her at home.

Parent Volunteers

Although parents are not able to be in the classroom during instructional time (school policy), I would love to have several parents who can prepare materials at home. If you would be interested in doing this, please let me know. I can send home materials with your child for you to work on at home. Thanks in advance!

Sending Money to School:

Here is the proper way to label the envelopes:

Child's Name Child's 5-Digit Code Teacher's Name Amount Enclosed What money is to be used for (ex. lunch, bookstore, etc.)
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Spelling

Your child will receive a list of 8-10 words that follow the spelling pattern we are learning about each week. Students will be tested over these words each Friday. In addition to being able to spell these 8-10 words, students must also demonstrate knowledge of the spelling pattern by spelling an additional 8-10 words that follow the same pattern but were not assigned for study at home. Students will also be assigned 5 high-frequency words each week. They will be required to spell and use these 5 words in sentences on the weekly spelling test.

Supplies

Please make sure that your child has the necessary supplies each and every day. Being prepared for class is the first step in the learning process! I will send a note home when your child's supplies need to be replenished. Please send the item(s) in as soon as possible.

A closing note...

Second grade is so much fun— it is the year in which your child will build upon the skills they learned in kindergarten and first grade, and they will also learn many new skills. I have tried to create a fun, nurturing, and supportive environment in my classroom, so that your child has the opportunity to reach his/her fullest potential. I hope this handbook helps to answer any questions you may have about our classroom policies and procedures. If you ever have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. I am here for you and your child. I look forward to working with you throughout this new school year!