

# Mountain View Elementary

## 2nd Grade Back to School Packet

720-972-5520: Office  
720-972-5538: Attendance

### **School Hours:**

M, T, Th, F: 7:35 am-2:30pm

Wednesdays: 7:35 am-1:15pm

The doors will open at 7:25, and children are welcome in the building after this time.

Our specials will rotate after three consecutive days in each class. PE, Art, Computers, Music. Each classroom will have a library time for class checkout weekly. We will send a Remind Text home each week so you will know when to return library books.

**Second Grade Website:** <http://mountain.adams12.org/classrooms/492>

Angie Bell: [angie.bell@adams12.org](mailto:angie.bell@adams12.org)

Jennifer Maestas: [jennifer.r.maestas@adams12.org](mailto:jennifer.r.maestas@adams12.org)

Valerie Meaders: [valerie.a.meaders@adams12.org](mailto:valerie.a.meaders@adams12.org)

Jennifer Rosenfels: [kim.spence@adams12.org](mailto:kim.spence@adams12.org)

Phone: 720-972-8441

Phone: 720-972-8427

Phone: 720-972-8433

Phone: 720-972-8428

### **Parent-Teacher Communication:**

We believe communication between home and school is extremely important. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher with any questions or concerns whenever they arise. Email is the most efficient way of communicating. Please note: we will not answer our classroom phones during the school day. We will always try to respond to messages within 24 hours during the work week.

Second grade will be sending a Monthly Newsletter home with upcoming events, curriculum updates and important information. We will also be using REMIND to send text blasts with classroom information that needs to be shared.



## Daily Schedule

M, T, Th, F

7:40-8:00 Morning Meeting/SEL

8:00-8:15 Shared Reading

8:15-8:45 Science/Social Studies

8:45-9:00 Recess

9:00-9:15 Read Aloud

9:15-9:30 Independent Reading

9:30-10:30-Guided Reading/Centers

10:30-11:00 Writers Workshop

11:00-11:30 Lunch

11:30-11:45-Recess

11:45-12:00 Writers Workshop con't

12:00-12:10 Foundations

12:10-12:55-Specials

12:55-12:57 Brain Break

12:57-2:25 Everyday Math

2:30-Dismissal

Wednesdays-Early Release

7:30 Morning Meeting

8:00-9:00 Calendar/Math

9:00-10:00-Spelling Groups

10:00-10:15- Recess

10:15-10:50 - Spelling Groups

10:50-11:00 - Wacky Wednesday

Selection

11:00-11:30-Lunch

11:35-12:20-Specials

12:20-12:30 - Pack UP

12:30-1:05 - Wacky Wednesday Activity

1:05-1:15 - Clean Up/Get Ready for Home

1:15-Dismissal

## 2nd Grade Curriculum:

Second grade is an exciting year. Our curriculum is taught through a balance of small group, whole group and individual instruction. Students participate in various cooperative learning structures (partner and whole group activities to help children be engaged and active in their learning) to enhance their learning in the classroom. We put a strong emphasis on speaking and listening. In order for students to communicate effectively they need to hear what others have to say, share what they have to say and respond appropriately.

As teachers, we work diligently on using the gradual release model. This means the teacher will model how to do a task/skill by ourselves while sharing our thinking about the topic. Next we invite the class to do it together. And, lastly, students are asked to try it on their own. This is done with the expectation that they will be successful in any task by the time they are asked to work alone.

### Math: (Blue Handouts)

This year Mountain View is using Everyday Math 4th Edition. This new edition of the program is aligned with the common core curriculum. We will be spending quite a bit of time teaching your children to talk AND write about their thinking. Second graders will learn to work cooperatively with their peers while solving complex problems. Each lesson has unique (differentiated) instruction to meet the needs of all students, from struggling to high achieving. Each month a newsletter will come home with an explanation about what we are learning. We will also be sending home a Family Letter at the end of each unit to give information about the upcoming unit. Please take a look at these and keep them close at hand! They will have all the answers to the homework and ideas for continuing the mathematical learning at home.

In second grade, our instructional time will focus on four critical mathematical areas and eight mathematical practice areas.



#### **Mathematical Areas**

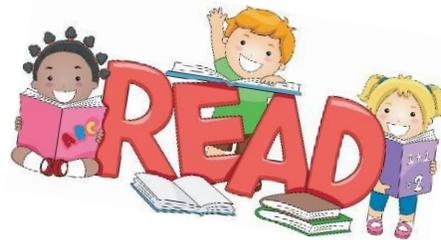
- (1) extending understanding of base-ten notation;
- (2) building strength and understanding of addition and subtraction;
- (3) using standard units of measure; and
- (4) describing and analyzing shapes

## **Mathematical Practices**

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct reasonable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision (pay attention to detail)
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

## **Assessment for Math:**

We are using the Everyday Math assessments. For each unit assessment every student will have the opportunity to show advanced thinking through open response and/or challenge problems. Each test will be sent home with a profile of progress explaining the scoring of each math strand.



## **Literacy (Purple Handouts)**

### ***Reading***

There are six reading units in 2nd grade. We will focus on these six units during whole group instruction. We will post information about each unit on our website as well as in our monthly newsletter. The following are the unit titles:

1. Recount responses (recounting is different than retelling. 2nd graders will be expected to write their recount)
2. Focus on Text Features and Facts (non-fiction)
3. Rhythms and Representations (fiction)
4. Order Makes Sense (non-fiction)
5. Voices in Varied Versions (fiction -comparing 2 versions of the same story)
6. Comparing Points and Purpose (comparing non-fiction)

## **Assessment for Reading:**

Students will be monitored in their guided reading groups for growth in their reading ability. There will also be end-of-unit assessments which involve reading grade level texts and showing understanding of reading standards in written form, as well as performance tests, such as conferencing, answering questions and reading to the teacher. Your second grader's progress will be sent home with a list

of the standards that were assessed and their score. This progress report will be stapled to their assessment, and will come home when it is done.

### ***Spelling***

We are excited to inform you that the Second Grade Team has chosen a phonics, spelling and vocabulary program called Words Their Way. The main benefit of Words Their Way is that it ***differentiates***, or ***customizes*** instruction allowing each child to work at their appropriate instruction level. Using spelling data from testing day, each student will be placed into a group based upon the spelling stage that he/she is in currently. New words will be introduced every Wednesday in class in a small teacher led group. Word work in our classroom will include sorting our words into categories, and noticing similarities and differences between words that sound alike, in individual and group settings. Words Their Way focuses less on memorization and more on allowing students to work with the words during word sorts to give them the chance to learn spelling patterns and often times is reflected in their authentic writing. Word work at home and school will reflect this philosophy. A letter explaining spelling homework for Words Their Way will follow this informational passage and will also be posted as a PDF on our grade level website and will be sent home when spelling homework begins. We are excited about the opportunity to work with your child using Words Their Way. If you have any questions about Words Their Way, please feel free to contact us.

### ***Spelling Homework Information***

The list of words or pictures will be sent home every Wednesday. It is generally a good idea to store the word sort in a Ziploc baggy, so your child can use it throughout the week. At the bottom of each sort the number and title of categories will be written for the given list (or sort) . The headers for each category will be underlined. "Oddballs" are words that do not fit in any of the categories but may look like they do. It is best to say each word out loud first and listen for where each word may fit.

Students will bring home a word sort every week to two weeks. They will cut out each word and sort them into categories under the headers. Ask your child to explain to you why the words are sorted in a particular way. What does the sort reveal about the spelling pattern in general? Students will be taught the ways that they can sort words in class, these activities will be practiced all year and will be perfect for home practice as well. Activities will not be assigned as homework until they are first practiced in the classroom. Please know that these words that are sent home do not need to be returned back to school and doing one activity a day are just the right dosage when learning the patterns more solidly at home.

## **Writing**

We will be teaching the following six writing units this year. The children will keep a writer's notebook with their writing throughout the year. We will send information home about each unit in our monthly newsletter.

1. Personal Narrative
2. Informational Writing
3. Opinion Writing
4. Research Writing
5. Narrative Writing
6. Opinion Writing with Text based evidence



### **Assessments for Writing:**

Writing will be assessed through periodic "quick writes". The children will have the opportunity to show us what they have learned by writing a genre-specific piece that will be graded on a rubric. The rubrics will assess content & ideas, organization, style, and conventions. The rubrics will be sent home to communicate your child's progress after each type of writing is assessed.

## **Science:**

We will be teaching these three science units this year. We will alternate science and social studies units.

1. Plants, Animals and their Environments
2. Forces in Motion
3. Weather and Seasons

### **Assessments for Science:**

Assessments will be created based on the second grade science standards. Assessment information will be sent home at the end of each unit.

Grades will also be found in Infinite Campus. (If you are not signed up, please see Marcy in the office)

These will be our social studies units this year:

## **Social Studies:**

1. My Role in the Community
2. Conflict in the Community
3. How Geographers Talk about the World
4. Geography in my Community
5. Communities in our Past
6. Decision Making (Personal Financial Literacy)

### **Assessments for Social Studies:**

Assessments will be created based on the second grade social studies standards. Assessment information will be sent home at the end of each unit. Grades will also be found in Infinite Campus.

### **Conferences:**

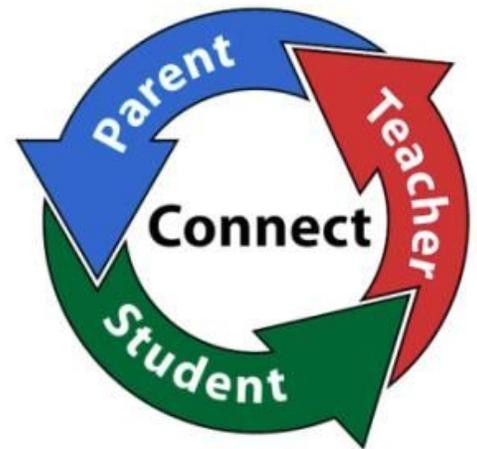
Conferences are an integral part of understanding your child's strengths and areas for improvement. There will be two school wide conference dates. If you would like an additional conference any time during the year, please feel free to call and schedule with us.

**October 9th 8:00 AM-8:00 PM**

**February 12th 8:00 AM-8:00 PM**

### **Scholastic Book Clubs:**

Book clubs provide an inexpensive way for your child to expand their home library. Book orders will be coming home each month in your child's homework folder. There are high interest and grade appropriate books. Please look them over and return order and check make to the company within one week of receiving the order. Reminders will be sent before the order is placed.



### **Parent Volunteers:**

We believe that together we make a wonderful team to help your child learn. We welcome parent volunteers in and out of the classroom. If you are interested please look for the sign ups to volunteer on the individual classroom doors. If you are interested in volunteering outside of the classroom, there is a Volunteer Sign Up on the Mountain View Homepage. PTO is another great way to become involved at Mountain View.

### **Attendance:**

Daily attendance in school is so important! Please try to schedule dental and doctor appointments after school and on scheduled days off. Family vacations should be scheduled during district vacation days. Please contact the school's attendance line (720-972-5538) in order to document your child's absence as excused. Because much of our learning is done in groups and through discussion, it is difficult to prepare a "packet" of missed work if you do go on vacation during the school year. So much of our learning in second grade comes from group interaction and in class activities. Your support in getting your second grader to school every day, and on time, will ensure the most success possible.

### **Water Bottles:**

Students are welcome and encouraged to bring water bottles to school each day. To keep the brain functioning at its highest level, it must be hydrated! Water is best because it is easily absorbed into the body. Please be sure all water bottles are easily sealed by the student and are *re-usable*. Please keep disposable plastic water bottles at home as they are easily altered, spilled and turned into toys. We also have a drinking fountain in the classroom that students may use to ensure hydration.

### **Snacks:**

Studies have proven that when chosen properly, snacks can provide students with an extra boost in their mental skills. This is the reason your child will have a daily snack time in the morning in which he/she will be able to eat a healthy snack. We encourage students to bring *one* healthy snack to eat mid-morning each day. This helps increase student focus during the time between breakfast and lunch. Healthy snacks that have *minimal clean up* are appreciated! Some ideas for healthy snacks include: one serving of crackers, pretzels, cereal, string cheese, raisins, fruit, veggies, etc.

### **Personal Belongings:**

Please label your child's personal items, such as their lunch box, backpack, coats, hats, mittens, gloves, etc. Things regularly get misplaced and returned to the lost and found. Having a name on your students things help second graders return their stuff back to the rightful owner or find them in the lost and found. Please remind your child to leave toys, electronics, and other special items at home so they don't get lost, broken, or placed in a teacher's "summer drawer". Fidget spinners and Pokemon cards will be sent directly to the front office to be picked up by a parent.

## Our Mountain View Way Is:

1. Be Kind
2. Be Safe
3. Do Your Job
4. Show initiative

The students will be recognized for holding this promise by earning ROCK coupons. As a class, they are also able to earn a Mountain.