



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year. I am enjoying our first week with our class and getting to know all the students. They are starting to learn the routines of second grade quite well. I am anticipating a great year for all of us.

Below is a breakdown of the core curriculum. Please keep this information on hand as a resource for you throughout this year.



RELIGION

Second Grade is a very important and exciting year. This year we will be experiencing the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion. In the classroom, we will also discuss important topics; such as forgiveness, treating others and ourselves with respect, the Mass, and following the Ten Commandments and the Law of Love.

With this year focusing so greatly on becoming more faithful participants in the Mass, we will be continuing to stress the importance of respect at church. We will be reinforcing the importance of kneeling, singing, and responding appropriately at Mass.

Some important dates for you to remember this year:

- **Baptismal Renewal-** October 18th at 2:30pm in the Church
This is our first step to receiving the sacraments, and we would like it if at least one parent could attend with their child. Students will use their Baptismal Candle at this prayer service. If you are not sure where you safely tucked it away, you may want to start your search for it soon. If it is so safely packed that it cannot be used, a white candle will work fine.
- **Parent Sacrament Meeting-** September 17th at 6:30pm in the Church
If you are unable to attend this meeting, please make sure you notify Bernadette Myers in the religious education office, as soon as possible.

- **First Reconciliation-** November 19th at 6:30pm in the Church
- **Parent/Child First Communion Retreat** February 22rd 8am-12:15pm
- **First Communion-** April 18th at 10am or 12:00pm (Our class time has not yet been decided)



Reading

At School

We concentrate on becoming a more confident reader through oral reading and comprehension skills. We read alone, with a partner, and in small groups. We learn strategies to sound out words we don't know, as well as work on comprehending what we read. Students are exposed to a variety of reading materials including fiction and nonfiction stories, poetry, plays, and informational articles. Independent reading or D.E.A.R. time is also an important part of our day. Second grade is truly a time when students go from "learning to read" to "reading to learn."

In Reading we focus on:

Comprehension: understanding what we read

Accuracy: decoding each word, pronouncing it correctly, and reading it fluently

Fluency: understanding the text allows us to read with good expression, varying our voice as we read, trying not to sound robotic

Expanding Vocabulary: We are constantly coming across new words as we read. Understanding and knowing how to use them appropriately makes us better readers and writers.

At Home

We ask that students practice their reading every night. Students should be exposed to a variety of reading materials if at all possible. Students can read books, magazines, recipes, etc. Please continue to model good reading by reading to your child, as well as listening to your child read to you. Your positive example greatly affects your child's perception on reading.



Writing/Language Arts

The reading program stresses the reading/writing connection. The children will have the opportunity to encounter a variety of writings throughout the year including personal responses to stories, journal writings, prayers, and creative writings. Best guess spelling is encouraged on the first draft of writing assignments. Students will then use the six trait writing process to polish their first draft. We also stress the use of complete sentences using the correct capitalization and punctuation. Our goal is to write a paragraph with a main idea and supporting details.



Our spelling words focus on phonics rules, high frequency words, and words from other subject areas. A spelling list will come home on Friday following an in class pretest. The test will be given on Thursdays and will include dictation. Students are asked to write the entire sentence, not just the spelling word. Sentences will contain only one spelling word. For the first quarter students will only be graded on the spelling word in the sentence. After the first quarter, students will be responsible for correct capitalization and punctuation in each sentence. Please help your child by reviewing words at home throughout the week.

Each week spelling words will be listed on Spellingcity.com. You can access our list and a variety of practice options by going to the website and clicking on Find a List. Just type in "Amanda Clayton" and you will have access to our lists. Using this website is completely optional, but it can be seen as a fun resource for your child.



Handwriting

This year, handwriting is perfecting what we have already learned by reviewing all strokes and combinations. Cursive handwriting will be introduced at the end of the year with beginning strokes only.



Math

The focus of second grade is basic facts up to twenty and problem solving strategies and skills. We will also be working with money, time, place value, addition and subtraction using two and three digit numbers, and measurement. To practice our math facts on a regular basis we use "Rocket Math" three times a week. This program consists of one minute timed tests, which will be given to help improve their ability to recall math facts. Students will, from time to time, be asked to take home Rocket Math to practice as part of their homework. Your help practicing math facts at home is greatly appreciated.



Classroom Management Plan

Our Classroom Rules: **Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Kind**

For students who choose to break one of our classroom rules the following consequences will be given. These are universal for all second grade students.

1. A verbal reminder-"What rule do we need to remember?"
2. A white chip given and then talk with the teacher during next recess to discuss the choices made in class including some thinking time-This might be a "thoughtful stroll" at recess.
3. A Think Sheet at The Safe Seat, a separate desk in the back of the classroom where a student will be asked to go when they are unable to complete their work at their desk while following the rules.
4. A Behavior Form filled out along with the student to be sent home and signed by a parent.
5. Phone call to parents.

Our class follows the school-wide positive approach to behavior management. Students who are caught doing their best and meeting our school-wide behaviors for success will earn, "Peace Tokens." For every 15 class tokens, we will earn a letter spelling out the word Peace. Once we have spelled PEACE, we will have a celebration of our success.

Our class strives to exhibit Christ's PEACE each and every day.

P-Perform our personal best

E-Engage in learning

A-Accept responsibility for our actions

G-Care for and respect all

E-Exhibit Catholic values

Class Meetings

Class meetings will be held each week. The goal of these meetings is to allow students to participate in solving our classroom concerns. Each meeting will begin with positive comments and sharing our "caught in the acts of kindness." We then will move on to discussing classroom concerns. Students are asked to use "I" statements to state their concerns. Students' names are not to be used. Together we brainstorm ways of solving these concerns and choose the best one. Our goal is to work together to problem solve ways to resolve issues within the classroom.



HOMEWORK

Students will have homework every Monday through Thursday night. Students write down homework each night in their assignment notebook. Parents should look over completed work and sign their name at the designated spot to show work was completed. Students need to return both homework and assignment pads each day. I do check assignment notebooks each morning looking for signatures to help remind each child of their responsibility each night as they go home and speak with you.

Homework is also listed on my web page at: <https://amandaclayton3.wixsite.com/website>

You can locate it through the Cure website by looking under About Us. Click on Faculty. Locate Amanda Clayton in the list of teachers and click on my name. Once you have reached my website, scroll down to see the week's homework listed by day.



★ Star of the Week



Every student will have an opportunity to be our Star Student of the Week for one week of the school year. Star of the Week is an opportunity for students to share information about themselves and an opportunity for us to learn more about our classmates. A star of the week sheet will be sent home with the child on Friday and they may begin to bring items on the Monday of their week. Items may include photographs, special items, etc. More details will come home when it is your child's turn. Students will also need to bring items to guesstimate during their special week. These items will be placed in a clear jar for students to observe all week. Please do not send candy in the jar. Have your child find something around the house to bring for example: golf tees, pennies, Q-tips, etc.

Absences

If you would like to pick up your child's homework for the day, please notify the office when calling. Otherwise he/she will receive their missed work when they return to school.

Specials Schedule

Monday: P.E. and Music

Tuesday: Spanish

Wednesday: Library

Thursday: P.E. and Music

Friday: Computers and Art

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have throughout the year. You can always email me at amanda.clayton@cureorars.com. I feel very positive that this will be a great year for all of us. I look forward to meeting with all of you throughout the year and wish to thank you in advance for all the help and encouragement you will have for your children this year. We are going to have a wonderful year together.

Thank You,
Mrs. Amanda Clayton

Some fun ways to study spelling words at home!



Write a note to mom or dad using your spelling words.

Go on a word hunt. Write your words on slips of paper. Give the slips to a family member and have them hide them. Then go hunt for your words!

Write a poem or a song using your words.

Write your words on graph paper using one square for each letter. Trace around the words with a marker.

Write each word in a silly sentence or riddle.

Write your words from longest to shortest.

Sort your words by syllables. Write them in columns.

Write a story using all your words.

Type your words on the computer. You can even email them to Mrs. Clayton (amanda.clayton@cureofars.com)!

Play memory with your words. Write each word twice, once per index card. Shuffle the cards and lay them upside down. Try to pick up the matching words.

Draw a comic strip with pictures and add spelling words in speech bubbles.

Write each of your words. Write the consonants in blue and the vowels in red.

Cut out letters from magazines or the newspaper to spell your words.

Write a question sentence using each word.

Write each word in pencil, go over it in pen, then in marker.

Write your word in crayon. Go over it in another color crayon. Go over it again in another color crayon!

Use alphabet stickers, stamps, or glitter glue to write each word.

Find your words in the dictionary. Write the definition.

Write your words twice with your right hand and once with your left hand (or the other way around if you are left handed)!

Pyramid write your words.

Example: cloud

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      c
     c l
    c l o
   c l o u
  c l o u d
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Draw a picture of your words.

Snap and clap your spelling words. Say the word aloud clapping for each consonant and snapping for each vowel as you say the letters.

Example: cloud

Clap, clap, snap, snap, clap

Go online to www.spellingcity.com and practice our words under Mrs. Clayton's page. Click on Students. Then go click on Find your list. Search by teacher and type in Amanda Clayton. Click on the link to choose from teach, test, or games.