

September 1, 2010

Dear Parents of Second Graders:

Welcome to September and the return to school. I am excited to be your child's teacher for second grade this year. Prior to this year, I taught ELA in junior high at Nativity. Although from second grade to junior high is a long journey, I am not unfamiliar with this grade level. Prior to earning my "M.O.M." degree at home with my two children ages nine and twelve, I taught second grade for several years in New Jersey. This is an incredible age to teach!

First and foremost, I believe in open, honest lines of communication. Please contact me by email at school: cscott@nativityschool.net, or write me a note if you have any concerns or questions about your child's progress, curriculum or anything at all this year. If you call school and leave me a message, I will call you back at the end of the school day.

Your child will have a busy year strengthening the basic skills he or she learned in first grade in preparation for the independence necessary in third grade. Expect your child to have a small amount of homework each evening. The first homework assignment is this: Find a quiet place in your home that is dedicated to homework. Make sure your child has a comfortable chair that reaches a table or desk, sharpened pencils, erasers and paper to use.

Since reading is the key to success in school across all grade levels, I highly encourage you to immerse your child in reading and writing at home as I will be immersing the young second grade minds in literacy at school. If your child is a reluctant reader, visit the library and check out periodicals like American Girl, Discovery Kids or Sports Illustrated Kids that pertain to his or her interests. It is better to be reading something than not to read at all. Modeled reading is still very important. Read picture books or part of a chapter book aloud to your child. He or she still needs to listen to an adult model to develop appropriate pacing in reading.

The mathematical concepts introduced last two years will be reinforced this year. It is important to understand the parts that make up numbers and that numbers can be combined to the base of ten. ($5+5$, $7+3$, etc.) Early on, we will be spending time showing the numbers in our math facts using manipulatives. This is not playing: this is developing a mind for math that is capable to embrace problem solving and higher order math skills in later grades and in life.

Your child will write and draw every day in a morning journal when he or she comes into school. Please have your child to school by 8:15 a.m. each morning so that he or she is not late for the opening routines of our day. Reading and writing are inseparable and important to lifelong success. Writing will be used to reinforce social studies and science concepts as well as to inspire creative thought.

I will be using parent volunteers in the classroom from time to time to help us with the writing process and other classroom activities. Thank you in advance for your support this year. I will do my best to create a positive year for your child. In return, I expect your child to try his or her best each day to be a good classroom citizen and learner. I am looking forward to a great year in second grade!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Scott