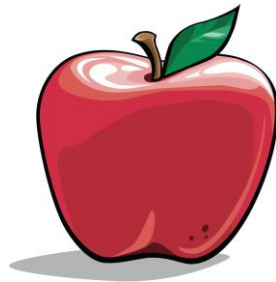


*Mrs. Hieber's*

*Second Grade  
Handbook*

*EP Pearce Elementary*



**Dear Parents,**

**I am excited to start the 2018-2019 school year here at Pearce Elementary! This is going to be a fantastic year!**

**I have posted this handbook for you and I hope it helps explain how 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will work and how second graders are expected to perform! Please also see the Pearce & GCS Handbooks regarding birthdays, absences, etc.**

**Please read through this handbook and let me know if you have any questions. You can contact me by email ([hieberm5@gcsnc.com](mailto:hieberm5@gcsnc.com)) or through the voicemail at school (605-5480).**

**I look forward to making 2<sup>nd</sup> grade a wonderful and positive experience for every student! We are going to have a great year!**

**Mrs. Melanie Hieber**

## CURRICULUM

### ELA (English Language Arts)

Reading, writing, language and spelling will be integrated and referred to as ELA. The children will be exposed to a great deal of literature through Common Core instruction and the reading series, as well as being read to daily from quality literature. Students will also read independently each day in class from good fit books. Students are also expected to read every night for at least 30 minutes as part of their homework assignments.

Students will write daily in various areas of the curriculum. Students will practice their writing using the local writing benchmarks as a guide. Correct grammar, sentence structure, and mechanics will be taught and practiced.

Word Study is a daily foundation for reading and spelling. This instruction emphasizes phonemic awareness, phonics-word study, high frequency word study, fluency, vocabulary, handwriting, and spelling. Comprehension is combined with this and our core ELA instruction.

### MATH

GCS has adopted Eureka as our K-5 math curriculum. A more in depth look at this curriculum for second grade can be located at the following website:

<https://www.engageny.org/resource/grade-2-mathematics>

Second graders will continue to use a hands-on approach to learning math concepts, but will be moving to the written level. Common Core units and daily activities will often relate to real life uses of math. As with any lifelong skill, there are some basic facts to be memorized. Second graders should be able to recall addition and subtraction facts with ease by the end of the year. This means that they can immediately recall the answers instead of counting on fingers, etc. Students will be taught strategies for recalling math facts quickly and will practice with timed drills and flash cards. Our goal is to recall at least 80 addition and/or subtraction facts in five minutes. Students will also practice place value strategies, problem solving, using measurement instruments, collecting data, and making graphs. Word problems make up a **large part** of our math curriculum. Second graders work on solving a variety of word problems throughout the year. Students will also be taught and expected to solve problems using at least two different strategies. Writing will be integrated as students write about what they are doing in math and explain their problem-solving processes.

### SCIENCE

The basic concept in second grade science is developing an understanding of change. We will explore weather, matter, sound, and plant and animal life cycles through Common Core units. Quality children's literature is often used as a springboard for science instruction. Much of our science curriculum is integrated with our ELA units; however, students may also be involved in hands-on activities usually done in small group settings and write about their findings.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

In second grade, we focus on communities- the roles of individuals, how communities change, how they are governed, economic activities, and religious and cultural traditions in neighborhoods. Students will explore their own community and communities of other children in the world. Students will also study important people in history and their contributions. These concepts are integrated in our ELA curriculum and students are also exposed to these ideas during read alouds.

Each month a character cornerstone will be stressed. Students will be exposed to various traits such as respect, responsibility, caring, and self-discipline.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Students are required to have thirty minutes of structured play or physical activity each day. Our goal is to make this fun, teach teamwork, good sportsmanship, and pride in personal achievement. It is important for students to remember to wear tennis shoes everyday so that they can participate in structured play.

## **COOPERATIVE GROUPS**

The ability to work effectively with others is an important skill for your child's future success. We will use cooperative groups daily in our classroom. Children learn and retain more if they are able to actively participate and communicate with peers. The use of cooperative groups and hands-on experiences together enhance a child's ability to grasp and retain concepts taught. Therefore, your child will be expected to work closely with others. Please reinforce with your child the importance of tolerance, acceptance of others, and the concept of working with others.

## **CLASSROOM PROCEDURES**

### **Weekly Folder:**

Each Monday your child's work from the past week will be sent home for you to review. After you look at it, keep the work, sign the envelope, and return the empty envelope to school on Tuesday. Please don't put any notes inside this folder. I do not check it. If there is work marked for correction, please discuss and have your child make those corrections. They may return corrected work to school so that I may check their progress.

### **Homework Folder:**

Please check your child's homework folder EVERY night, including Fridays. The homework folder will contain any assignments, a reading log, behavior log for you to sign DAILY and any other important notices. Please be sure to look through each paper in the folder to make sure there is nothing new for you to see! ☺ The homework folder is also the place for you to put any notes that you would like for me to see, such as a change in how your child will go home that day, or an envelope with lunch money. Please make sure they are

visible and near the front of the folder. Your child will be responsible for turning in any important notes or money to our special basket in the mornings.

### **Homework:**

Homework will be given Monday through Thursday. Please check that your child has completed the assignments. Although the students need to do the work themselves, parents are encouraged to help students when needed and to check their work. Your child may have some guided reading homework once guided reading begins. Your child's guided reading teacher will email you any information regarding homework expectations once we begin. 😊

**Reading homework** - Your child is expected to read for at least 30 minutes each day and record on a log that will be turned in and recorded on Friday of each week. Also, you may read to your child, **but the majority of the time, the reading needs to be done by the student.**

**Math homework** - Your child will complete review math problems Monday through Thursday based on the work done in class. **This year, we will be using a homework workbook and page numbers for homework will be circled and listed on the weekly email newsletter.**

**Homework workbooks should remain in book bags so they are not lost or misplaced.**

**We try not to give too much homework, so we expect that what is given IS completed each week.**

### **Additional Math Ideas...**

When learning addition and subtraction facts, your child may bring home "Fact Family" cards to help them practice this skill. Children learn in many different ways so feel free to explore other methods of learning the facts such as writing them down, saying them aloud, using flash cards, making up fun games such as matching or a "Go Fish" version, or using quizzes and practice tests. I will also be using [www.xtramath.com](http://www.xtramath.com) in the classroom as a way to practice math facts. This takes only about 5 minutes each day, but is very beneficial. A letter will go home explaining how you/your student can take advantage of this free website at home, as well. We will also be using [www.prodigymath.com](http://www.prodigymath.com). This is another engaging website that students can use to practice math skills.

Please help your child get into the habit of packing their homework into their folder and then into their book bag when they get finished. We all forget things once in a while so I will let the children turn in homework a day late when this happens, but if it becomes a regular habit, we may need to conference. Of course, if your child is sick, homework can be made-up. We will work on developing independent and responsible 2<sup>nd</sup> graders!

## Discipline Plan and Reward System:

The Calendar Behavior Log is located in your child's homework folder. This is to let you know how your child is behaving each day in school. All students start on "Ready to Learn" (**green**) each day. Students have opportunities to move up our chart by going above and beyond what is expected. Students can also move their clip down to indicate that they are having trouble with certain behaviors or classroom rules. The student is responsible for coloring their sheet each afternoon. Behavior codes are as follows:

- Purple** - Fantastic Day
- Dark Blue** - Great Day
- Aqua/Light Blue** - Really Good Day
- Green** - Ready to Learn
- Yellow** - Warning
- Orange** - Teacher Choice
- Red** - Parent Contact

Students can write the behavior that they need to practice in the colored block if they had to clip down. Please discuss the behavior with your child and initial in the block.

### Our class rules are:

- Talk only at appropriate times.
- Follow directions the first time.
- Keep your hands, feet, and mouth to yourself.
- Treat others and their things the way you want to be treated.
- Stay on task and in your seat/area.

Each of these rules, and examples of them, will be discussed with the children to be sure that everybody understands. When rules are broken, students will be asked to clip down. Each time a child breaks a rule, they clip down to a new color. We will use **green** for a good day where the student did not need to clip down at all. **Yellow** will be used after I have given a verbal warning (or sometimes just "the look"). Second graders usually want to follow the rules and please the teacher therefore giving a verbal warning is usually enough. Just know that a yellow card shows some poor choices in behavior that I have seen a couple of times that day. When a student clips down to yellow, we talk about acceptable behaviors and that they have a chance to turn it around. **At the beginning of the year, students may clip down more in order to find the teacher's tolerance for certain behaviors, especially talking at appropriate times.** **Orange** or **red** shows a student made multiple poor choices in the same day. Your child will have a note and/or you may be contacted by phone to discuss better choices for your child.

Students will be rewarded for above and beyond behavior. They can clip up on our behavior chart. Remember, if your child clips up to aqua, dark blue or purple, he/she has shown extra effort in being a super classroom example. Children who clip up to purple are rewarded with a trip to the prize box. **IMPORTANT:** Please note that if your child is on green daily, that means that they had a really good day! There is no reason for alarm if they do not clip up each day. As second graders, we will work on developing more intrinsic rewards and learning how to be good citizens who make good choices because we know that we can be helpers in society and not just for a physical reward. This takes time so we will work on this throughout the year.

☺POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT, ENCOURAGEMENT, AND COMPLIMENTS ARE ALWAYS USED IN OUR CLASSROOM!☺

### **Snack:**

We will have a working snack time each morning around 9:15. Your child may bring a *small* snack to school each day. If possible, make it separate from your child's lunch, or easy to get to, so that snack time will run quickly and smoothly. Please send a snack such as a few crackers, a piece of fruit, or a granola bar, etc. (items the students can eat easily and quickly.) Also, please do not send candy or sugary snacks. If you pack a drink, please send water.

### **Weekly Newsletter:**

A grade level weekly newsletter will be emailed each Friday or Monday. The newsletter is designed to keep you informed of what is going on in the classroom as well as special occasions and upcoming events. Please feel free to contact me anytime if you have questions about the weekly newsletter.

### **Birthdays**

We like to acknowledge everyone's birthday throughout the year. If your child would like to bring a special snack to celebrate with his/her classmates, **we will enjoy this snack during lunch.** Please make sure it is **store bought** and easily distributed (i.e. no cakes that have to be sliced). You may send invitations for an outside birthday party **as long as an invitation is given to every student in the class.** If your child is having a smaller birthday party and you do not intend on sending enough invitations for the entire class, **you will need to hand out/mail the invitations yourself outside of school hours.** Thanks for your understanding.

## Ways You Can Help Your Child Succeed in School!

- Read together as often as possible. You can read to your child, and they can read to you. When you are not available, encourage your child to read out loud to siblings or even pets! Children will also need some time when they can read quietly to themselves.
- Talk about characters and events, encouraging your child to express ideas and opinions.
- Write letters back and forth with your child- even short notes are great. Write stories together and let your child share completed products with the family.
- Allow your child to do their homework by himself/herself and then, check over their work to make corrections. Although the student needs to do the work him or herself, it is acceptable for parents to discuss mistakes and have students correct. Help your child find a quiet spot for homework with all the necessary materials.
- Don't worry TOO much about misspelled words at this time, although we will encourage the children to use correct spellings. Students should first be encouraged to sound out and tap unknown words. Our class has a phonics/spelling program which will help students become more successful spellers. Help students to find correct spellings if they ask and encourage them to use multiple resources to spell correctly.
- Discuss the day's activities together. Communication is key!
- Encourage your child to explore and discover new things. Reassure them that making mistakes is expected and perfectly fine.
- Make school attendance a priority. If your child must miss school, try to avoid Mondays and Fridays as these tend to be the busiest days.
- Remember to pack a nutritious snack each day. This mid-morning "brain boost" will be helpful for your child!