

Welcome to the Jungle



Dear Parents,

We are getting back into the swing of things and beginning a new school year. Your child is now a second grade student and is going to have an exciting and educational year. I can't wait to get this year started.

Phonics and reading will continue to go hand in hand as students master special sounds and continue to develop their reading and language skills. In math, students will master their addition and subtraction facts, and learn about fractions, telling time, counting money, multiplication, and so much more. Students will be learning many new interesting facts in History, Science, and Health. They will also be sharpening their cursive handwriting skills. All of these fun things are taught in a Christian environment where academic standards are high and Biblical principles are woven throughout the curriculum.

Please remember that the education of your child is a team effort- the teacher, the parents, and the student working together in the best interest of your child. If you will make note of the following items, this will help us work together as a team.

Absences

When your child is absent, please send a note when they return stating the reason for the absence. I need this for my records. I will have their make-up work available in the elementary office for you to pick up as long as you call the office and request it before noon. Remember, after 5 tardies, every third tardy is converted into an absence.

Arrival/Dismissal

For arrival, you may either drop your child off in the car line or park and walk your child into the school. If you walk your child into the school, drop them off at the classroom door. Please do not come in the classroom in the morning. Remember, doors lock at 8:15. If you are late, you will need to go to the middle elementary doors to get in, and check in at the elementary office.

For dismissal, please go through the car line. We will come out the middle elementary doors at 3:00. Please use the car sign for the first quarter so that I can get used to your car. If someone new is going to be picking your child up, please give them the car sign, if possible.

Birthdays

If you wish to send in cupcakes or something special for your child's birthday, please let me know at least a day in advance. If your child has a summer birthday, please plan on a day in May to celebrate your child's birthday with the class.

Communication

Their FROGS folder will be sent home **every day**. FROGS stands for Fully Rely on God's Strength. Anything you need me to see should be put in the FROGS folder. I will check it every morning.

A "work folder" will be sent home every **FRIDAY** with their graded papers from the previous week. It will also include art projects, Scholastic book order forms, etc. Please look through these papers and return the empty folder on Monday. Please look at our classroom web page each Friday, also. It will give important reminders and information about school.

If you have any questions throughout the year, feel free to contact me by leaving me a voicemail (ext. 350) or by emailing me (tdembowiak@wilmingtonchristian.com).

Field Trips

We are planning to go on 2 field trips this year. We will go to Mike's Farm (approx. \$8) in the fall and to the Aquarium (approx. \$16) in the spring.

Help Class

Help class will be on Mondays for Phonics and on Tuesdays for Math from 3:15 to 3:45 pm. These classes will begin the first full week of school. I will send you a note if I would like your child to attend. New students and any students with D's or F's will attend.

Homework

I believe it is vital that children spend quality time with their family each night. Homework that is assigned is critical for your child's success. Homework should only take 30 minutes. If your child is taking longer than this, please let me know.

Lunch

Just a few reminders...

1. Glass bottles are not allowed at school.
2. We will not be able to microwave you child's food.
3. Students may not have drinks with caffeine during lunch.
4. They may purchase ice cream on Fridays.

You are welcome to eat lunch with your child any day of the year. You must always sign in at the office and get a guest badge. If you show up at the lunch room doors without a badge, you will not be allowed to enter the building until you sign in at one of the school offices.

If you would like to eat a school lunch, please send in a note with your child so that I can order you a meal in the morning. If your child forgets his/her lunch, they will order a school lunch.

Math

On homework nights, students will practice their flashcards for 5 minutes. Please make sure they do this. It reflects on their math fact tests and quizzes if they are not doing this daily. On most nights, drill with flashcards. Start off with only 10 flashcards. Drill these for 5 minutes until they have learned these facts, and then add 5 more facts to the stack. You can make it fun by making it into a game, timing your child, or giving prizes. On some nights, make this time even more fun for your child by allowing them to play a math flashcard game online. There are links to math flashcard websites on our classroom web page. By December, they will be completing a 100-addition facts math sheet in 5 minutes. If they practice each night, and practice in class, they will have no problem accomplishing this goal. Students will also have a math worksheet to complete two nights a week. Parents please check these worksheets and give help when needed.

Reading

We focus on oral reading in the Second Grade. Students are to read their assignments out loud to a parent. Please concentrate on fluency and expression. Our goal is to have them read just like they are talking to someone. When they have finished reading, ask them to tell you at least 3 things they remember from the story. An Oral Reading grade will be given once a week.

We will also continue doing AR this year. Each week, your child will choose an AR book from the library. They will read the book in class and at home. Students must have their book finished by the next library class. If they finish the book early, they may take the test during morning routine or seatwork when time allows. Each test will be worth 25 points. This will start in September. Be looking for a STARS report to come home. This report will inform you which book level your child should be reading.

Spelling

This year we have a new spelling curriculum. There are 14 lists in the curriculum. We will take two weeks to go over each list. The first week, your child will be tested only on spelling. The second week, your child will be tested on vocabulary. My website has links to two great sites that your child can play games and practice their spelling words.

Student of the Week

We will be featuring a Student of the Week each week this year. I'll be sending home a schedule so you will know when it is your child's turn. They will be featured on the Student of the Week Bulletin Board, have special Student of the Week privileges, and receive an award. Please check out the student of the week link on our classroom website for complete details.

Supplies

Your child should have all supplies at school within a week. Most of these are used at school every day.

Uniforms

Nothing non-uniform may be worn in the classroom. If your child tends to get cold easily, he/she will only be allowed to wear a WCA jacket or sweatshirt. Silly bands may not be worn to school. On casual day, girls may wear pants.

Verses

Each week the students will be given a Bible verse to memorize and recite by Friday. They may recite the verse to me on the way to and from lunch or at the playground, if they would like to say it early.

I am so excited about this year. I am looking forward to assisting you in the pursuit of reaching your child's spiritual, academic, physical, and social excellence. Please remember me in your prayer time, and please let me know of any prayer requests you may have. Thank you for your help and cooperation!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Dembowiak