

Bishop John A. Marshall School

Second Grade

SUMMER 2021

Welcome parents and students to second grade!

Second grade will be an exciting year for your student. It will be filled with many learning opportunities to help him or her grow academically, socially, and spiritually. This year will be a time for the foundation your child built in kindergarten and first grade to become mastered. In this letter you will find information on academics, important reminders, and what to bring on the first day of school.

CURRICULUM NOTES

We will continue with the Saxon Math and Phonics programs that you might already be familiar with. Both programs will begin the year reviewing many of the concepts learned in grade one. This allows returning BJAMS students to refresh themselves with previously learned rules and concepts, and new students to be introduced to the Saxon programs. Although these initial concepts and lessons may seem very easy for your child, it is very important that we build a strong learning foundation in the beginning of the year for the harder concepts that will come later in the year.

In addition to math and phonics, we will also be engaged in many different learning activities in reading, writing, science, and social studies. We will continue to build our reading fluency and accuracy through many group "read alouds", charts, and poems. We will incorporate the writing process through our work on different types of writing such as our saint report, narrative, persuasive, and informative pieces. We will begin cursive writing in the second half of the year. We will be learning about maps and communities in our social studies program, and our science units will cover the concepts of force and motion and matter.

Spiritually, this is a significant year. Your child will be learning about the sacraments of Reconciliation and Communion and also learning how to receive them. Your child will learn and prepare for these sacraments as a class regardless of his or her faith. Children baptized in the Catholic faith will be receiving the sacraments this year in their

home parish. Please look for information regarding sacramental preparation at the end of this letter.

WHAT TO BRING ON DAY ONE?

- 1 **box of gallon-size ziploc bags** to be used for taking home mail and projects.
- 1 **box of sandwich size ziploc bags** to be used for storing our math supplies
- 2 **boxes of tissues**
- 2 **(or more) containers of disinfecting wipes**
- 1 **(or more) rolls of paper towels (for science experiments)**
- 1 **water bottle that has a spill-proof top that won't leak or spill if tipped over**
- **student information forms (following this letter)**

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Please bring those items on the **first day of school**. Pencils, crayons, colored pencils, erasers, and other necessary school supplies will be provided for your child. I know it is exciting to get new school supplies at the start of school, so if your child does bring in his or her own crayons or other supplies, please be sure that they are labeled with your child's name. Students will not need binders and I encourage you to not send these or mechanical-style pencils to school with your child as they often cause a distraction.

Students are encouraged to keep their water bottle at their desk so they can stay hydrated and keep their brain working at top speed! Please send in water bottles that are plastic (no metal or glass) with a spout-style top rather than an open top that can spill easily. I ask that water bottles are filled with water only, no juice as this is very hard to clean up off the floor.

HOMework

Homework is very important as it is a reinforcement of the day's lessons and it also allows you to be involved with your child's learning. Approximately four pieces of homework are sent home daily: a math worksheet, a math fact sheet, a phonics worksheet, and a High Frequency Word Box sheet. There will also be spelling practice that should be worked on throughout the week in preparation for the weekly test on Friday. This may sound like a lot, but the homework should only take about 20 minutes to complete and depending on the schedule and the lesson, certain homework may not go home that day. More information on homework will be sent home during the first weeks of school when homework begins.

CONTACTING THE TEACHER

E-mail is a great way to contact me whether you have a simple question that I can quickly answer or perhaps you just need to tell me your child wasn't feeling great in the morning. You can email me at cgreene@bjams.org.

I will also have a BJAMS Second Grade website that will be full of great information. This will be my main means of communicating news, notes, and other information.

Early into the year I will send out a link to the website so you can be up to speed on everything.

I am looking forward to a fantastic year with your children and all of the exciting learning opportunities that lie ahead of us. It's going to be a great year!

Sincerely, Crystal Greene

Below this letter are two student information forms. Please kindly fill them out and return them on or before the first day of school.

SECOND GRADE

PLEASE RETURN ON OR BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!

Please fill out the questions below.

Student Name: _____

Parents' Names: _____

Any Food Allergies? _____

Parent email address(es) that you would like communication sent to:

Getting to know your kiddo will be a joy this upcoming school year. However, If there is anything that you would like to share with me ahead of time, that would be phenomenal! Some parents in the past have shared with me their child's hobbies, pets, passions, favorite subjects, their siblings, favorite snacks, if the child usually naps at home etc... Any additional information will help build the bridge from home to school!

Sacramental Preparation Survey

This year your child will be learning and receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and Communion.** Your child must be baptized in the Catholic faith in order to receive these sacraments. Both sacraments are prepared for in class but are received in your home parish. **Please fill out the following questions and return on or before the first day of school.**

Student Name: _____

Has your child been baptized?

Yes _____ No _____

Will your child be receiving the sacraments this year?

Yes _____ No _____

Your home parish is _____

** If your child is not baptized in the Catholic faith but you wish to have him or her receive the sacraments this year, please note this and contact your area parish priest as soon as possible.

For planning purposes: First Reconciliation is typically made between December – March depending on your home parish's schedule. First Communion is during the month of May. Please contact your home parish for specific details and dates.

Please also note that I often do not get information from all of the area parishes. It is your responsibility to stay in touch with your parish to find out the pertinent details regarding the sacraments. Many parishes hold retreats, rehearsals and parent meetings that are required in order to receive the sacraments.