



Dear Second Grade Parents,

I would like to welcome you to second grade at Notre Dame of De Pere! I am looking forward to a rewarding and exciting year teaching your child. This is my third year of teaching. I have spent the last two years here at Notre Dame in second grade. Previously, I spent 1 year subbing at the Green Bay School District. I am very excited to have your child in my class! I think you will find the following information helpful as you and your child begin a new school year experience.

****As you are aware, this year could still be very different from previous years. With all of the unknowns, please know that things may change at the last minute. I will try to give you as much notice as I can, but this year will be a challenge in some ways! But together, we will get through it!**

Since the elementary school years help to build a foundation for learning, we can build a strong one by working together toward the same goals for the benefit of your child. You will find below some of the policies and activities that will be going on throughout the year. I promise this is the longest newsletter of the school year! ☺ The rest will be very short!

Our schedule will include these subjects:

Reading-Students will have at least twenty minutes of Read to Self time each day. Regular reading instruction will be done in a variety of ways using trade books and bookroom resources during guided reading. We will continue to implement the district approach, The Daily 5, with the emphasis on CAFÉ (comprehend, accuracy, fluency and expanding vocabulary). You can help by reading with your child each night and then asking him/her questions about what they've read regarding the CAFÉ approach. I will eventually be sending home a reading log to record the books your child reads each night, as well as the minutes read.

Writing-Writing will take place daily and we will follow the Lucy Calkins Writer's Workshop curriculum. We will concentrate on several writing units throughout the year (Narrative, Poetry, Non-fiction, etc.) After each unit, I will send home their "practice writings." Please look at these throughout the year to see your child's growth! We will not be as worried about spelling, grammar, and mechanics in the practice writings. We want them to just be excited about writing!! The children will decide which piece(s) they wish to publish each unit, and then we will work on editing the piece(s) to look their very best!!

Spelling/Phonics-This year we will continue to use an approach to spelling adopted by GRACE, "Wilson Foundations." In this approach we will focus on a certain phonics rule each week. Daily, independent practice using a variety of word solving actions will help build automaticity and transfer. These words will always be displayed for students in the room, but the final goal is for them to spell the words without the use of prompts. After practice with these words each week, your child will bring them home to practice every night and review nightly. (There are some fun websites to help your child

practice their spelling words at home. If you would be interested in those websites, please let me know!) On Friday, they will be tested on these words.

Math-We will continue to use the math series “Math Expressions.” It incorporates the use of five core classroom structures: math talk, quick practice, student leaders, building concepts and a helping community. You can help reinforce these skills and concepts through the homework lessons.

Religion-We will be using the “Our Sunday Visitor” program and curriculum to help prepare the students for their two very important sacraments: Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Specials: Your child will have all of the specials this school year. Here is our Specials’ Schedule:

Mondays: 10:30-11:00 am-Guidance
11:00-11:30 am- Gym

Thursdays: 10:30-11:30 AM Art

Fridays:11:00-11:30 AM

Tuesdays: 10:30-11 am-Music
11-11:30am-Spanish

Daily Recess: 10:05-10:25am and 1:20-1:50pm

Wednesdays: 12:35-12:50- Music
1:05-1:20- Spanish

Home Work: Your child’s homework will consist of nightly reading practice (at least 20 minutes), spelling practice and math homework (if assigned). Also, any work that your child didn’t complete that day.

Take Home Folder: Your child will be bringing home a folder each day from school. The left hand side of the folder will be labeled “Home” as the right side will be labeled “School.” Please be sure to go through each paper carefully as there may be items that need to be returned as soon as possible. We will be using assignment planners each day to help with organization. They are located in your child’s Take Home Folder. There is a section for parent communication with me at the bottom of the planner. Feel free to send messages in this manner as well. Your child will write their spelling words in their planner weekly. So their spelling lists will be available in multiple places (on my website, Spelling City, planner, weekly newsletter, weekly list that goes home on Mondays). **Also, please sign the planner each night to confirm that your child has completed his/her homework.**

Behavior Management: In your child’s Take Home Folder you will find a white, monthly behavior chart that stays in the Take Home Folder. Please discuss it with your child daily to encourage positive behavior. Our behavior plan is based on a Positive Behavior Program emphasizing three community agreements of demonstrating Respect, Responsibility and Safety at all times.

Weekly Newsletter: Watch for a Monday newsletter informing you of our emphasis each week, along with school and classroom updates, the weekly spelling list and reminders. This will also be located on our classroom website and will go home with your child.

Book Orders: Each month I will send home a Scholastic Book Order. If you are interested in purchasing any books, please return the order form by the date indicated and send a check payable to Scholastic Book Club. I also have set up an online account with Scholastic, so if you wish to order online, you may do so. I will send home the directions on how to do this with the first catalogs. With each order, the classroom will earn points to buy classroom books and materials!

Field Trips: Throughout the year we may go on a few field trips. All field trips are related to the curriculum and have an educational aspect. A field trip permission slip will be sent home with the time, date, and any additional information you may need on it. Your child will not be permitted to go on any trips without a signed permission slip. An activity fee was added to your child's tuition costs, so there is no need to pay for each individual field trip. This activity fee will now cover the field trip costs.

Snacks: We will have a snack daily around 9:30-10am. Please send a nutritious snack with your child daily. Crackers, granola bars, pretzels are all good options. Sweet treats, such as cookies, cupcakes, etc. will be saved for special occasions. **Please refrain from anything with nuts, as this is now a school-wide policy. (Birthday treats are no longer allowed--please see the GRACE Wellness Policy regarding this).**

Water Bottles: Please have your child bring a water bottle daily. This year, they won't be allowed to get a drink from the drinking fountain. However, they will be able to fill their water bottle at the drinking fountain. This water bottle will be kept on their desk. I will only allow clear, plain water in the bottles to help alleviate messes when spills happen. I will try to remind your child to bring their water bottle home nightly.

Toys from Home: I know how exciting it is for students to bring in their toys from home to share with their friends; however I would appreciate it if they are kept at home, unless requested from school. At a later date, we will be starting Student of the Week in our classroom. When your child is selected as the Student of the Week, they will be able to bring in some items/toys of their choice to share. You will receive more information about this at a later date.

Absences: When your child is absent from school I will put the work that he/she missed in their mailbox at school or will send it home with a sibling, if possible. Please go over the work with your child that night or as soon as possible and return it to school in the next couple of days.

Helping Out In the Classroom: I am not 100% sure as to whether or not classroom volunteers will be allowed this year. I will keep everyone posted when I know! If you would ever like to help out at home (cutting out laminating, covering books, etc.), please let me know!

SeeSaw: One way I will communicate with parents this school year is through the SeeSaw website. It is a very useful and easy way of communicating. I will be sending out an invite to our classroom within the week.

Communication is very important during the elementary school experience. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Feel free to send a note to school, send out an email (hborlee@gracesystem.org), or call the school office (920-336-1115) and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

I am confident that you and your child will enjoy your year here at Notre Dame of De Pere! Please keep the lines of communication open between home and school. I am looking forward to working with each of you so that we can make this year a rewarding and productive experience for all.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Heather Borlee

