

Welcome to Second Grade!

Dear Parents,

Today was the first day of your child's exciting adventure through second grade. We had a lot of fun during the short amount of time we had together. It all started by everyone coming in, greeting their friends, making new friends, and for the first time, sitting at individual desks (not tables)! Everyone had a chance to unpack all of the school supplies they brought. Some items went into their desks, some went into their art buckets, and others ended up in their cubbies (which are located above their lockers). In addition to all of that, we made our way down to the gym where Mr. Bonomo, our principal, spoke to everyone about ways to have an awesome year. He talked about our mission statement and encouraged each person to try his or her best. Mr. Bonomo stressed the importance of learning, and he talked to us about caring for and respecting one another.

I was very pleased with how smoothly everything went. My hat goes off to you for all of your behind-the-scene efforts in preparing for this big day! It made a huge difference having all of the supplies here and ready to go! Thank you for sending the specific colors of pocket folders with brads. By having these various colors, your child will be able to readily identify which folder will be needed for each subject. For instance, everybody now knows that their math folders are orange and their reading folders are purple. The brads will be used to hold papers that your child will need on a regular basis. When attached to the folder, these papers won't wander around your child's desk!

Each morning our class will be having what is called "Read-Aloud/Snack." This is a time when the children will sit in the front of the room, listen to a story and eat a snack. We are encouraging everyone to bring a single-portion, healthy snack to school. Today we talked as a class about calling it a "produce break," where a single portion of fresh fruit or vegetables could be brought in. I do realize that having fresh produce around the house is not always possible, so I would like to add that other healthy foods may also be included. Fruit cups (with natural juices), pretzels, crackers, nuts, and cheese are some ideas of other healthy snacks. Please help in Pleasant Hill's effort to be an Earth-friendly school by sending food in reusable containers.

I am one who likes to look at the *big picture* of each school year as well as the smaller *snapshots* along the way. For me, the *big picture* is looking ahead to the next nine months, anticipating and sharing precious second grade moments each and every day with the little ones you send into my classroom, and conveying these moments with you along the way. Everyone's bright, smiling face will light up my room and let me know that they are at school to learn, to become the best that they can become, and to be the caring, respectful, and polite children I know they are. The *snapshots*; well, those are day-by-day gains that others may overlook, but will not go unnoticed in our room. These will be our celebration moments and the highlights of our year! To see the look of, "I got it!" in a child's face is the most amazing sight in the world! Let's keep our eyes peeled for those special moments, and share them with the little ones who are learning from us.

I look forward to a wonderful year of special times, partnerships, and celebrations!

Gratefully,
Cindy Campbell