

A Snapshot of 2nd Grade

Welcome to the 2023-2024 School Year!

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

Welcome to a new school year! We plan to make this a great year by learning many new things and having a bit of fun along the way. This is an exciting time, one of spiritual growth for second graders, who will receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Below is a snapshot of our curriculum, weekly schedule, and expectations!

We are happy to report that your children are adjusting beautifully. They are enjoying the Brain Breaks, Mindfulness Activities, Recess Breaks and various Specials throughout the day. They are putting forth great efforts in this environment and we are very proud of them. Thank you for your continued support, we truly appreciate it!

**SECOND GRADE TEAM**

Hello, my name is Kendall Walsh and this is my third year teaching and my second year at St. Cajetan. I graduated from Western Michigan University and absolutely love working with children! I come from a family of five and was born and raised here in Beverly. I am so excited to work at a school so close to home and be a part of the Warrior family. It has been such a pleasure getting to know your children and I look forward to a fantastic year ahead!

Hello, my name is Kassandra Malloy and this is my second year at St. Cajetan. My family consists of my husband Mike, my two children, Elliot and Adeline, and my dog Bluey! I am beyond excited to get to know your child and be a part of the St. Cajetan family. We will do so many fun things together as a class but most importantly, we will LEARN A LOT! I believe in each and every one of my students and will work hard to make sure they know that they are special, smart, and important every day! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have throughout the year. I look forward to the year ahead!

**RELIGION**

This year we will be using the series Blessed Are We, Faith in Action. This series is very comprehensive, interactive, and provides great home connections that will serve as a home-school link. Along with the series, we often supplement the content with stories from the Bible, as well as from children’s literature. Our students will be attending mass once a week on Tuesdays. We place great emphasis on the students’ learning the different parts of mass, the proper responses, and respectful listening and engagement.We will also spend a significant amount of time preparing them for their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. These two special sacraments carry powerful messages of God’s unconditional love and forgiveness. Please note, along with these sacraments there will be rehearsal times after school, as well as a Communion Retreat. Further information, including dates, will be given in the future.

**Reading Workshop**

Reading is a fundamental skill that we emphasize throughout the curriculum. The Reading Workshop Model provides students with a supportive environment that involves them in authentic reading experiences that focus on the strengths and needs of each individual student. Reading Workshop helps kids develop strong reading skills through the use of mini-lessons, read alouds, shared reading, and independent reading. Each session will begin with a mini-lesson in which a specific concept, known as a teaching point, will be introduced. The teacher will explicitly model or demonstrate target skills and/or strategies. Students then get a chance to practice the skill or strategy on their own or with the class, and ultimately will be able to successfully implement this skill independently. At the conclusion of each Mentor Text students will receive an assessment focusing on comprehension and vocabulary. The ultimate goal of Reading Workshop, and our hope for your child, is to develop him or her into a lifelong reader.

**GUIDED READING**

In addition to Reading Workshop, we will also continue the Fountas and Pinnell (F&P) Leveled Reading Program. This program is closely aligned with Common Core State Standards and is designed to help individual readers. F & P gives us the opportunity to work with students in small groups based on their instructional reading levels. This type of grouping allows us as teachers to customize our teaching points to the needs of the individual students. Students will be introduced to text and will work on a variety of activities within their groups to enhance their fluency, comprehension, and problem solving. **Students will also be expected to bring their books home multiple times during the week. It’s important to note that even if they have already read the book, they should continue to practice their text for greater fluency and understanding.** The students will also be assessed and texts will be changed as the student moves up in his/her reading level.

**Writer’s Workshop/English**

Writer’s Workshop is a framework for writing instruction and practice within the classroom. The teacher acts as a mentor author, modeling writing techniques and conferring with students as they move through the writing process. Direct writing instruction takes place in the form of a mini-lesson at the beginning of each workshop followed by active writing, conferring, and ultimately sharing with their peers. In conjunction with Writer’s Workshop, we will also cover paragraph and sentence structure, parts of speech and proper punctuation.

**Spelling/Phonics**

Our spelling series is From Sounds to Spelling. Words will be given on Monday and students will practice those words in the classroom through various activities (word sorts, white board, etc.) A Spelling Test on these words will be given on Fridays as well. The spelling lists will vary based on the students’ overall knowledge of word patterns and phonemic awareness to start the year.

**Math**

This year, we will begin using a new Math curriculum called **Sadlier.** This series takes an interactive and engaging approach that aligns with Common Core Standards. Students will be engaged in their learning and use manipulatives as well as technology within each unit. Students will have a variety of hands-on activities to make math fun! Our program will consist of addition & subtraction, place value, measurement, data & graphs, money, time, and geometry!

**Science**

For science, we will continue to use the curriculum LabLearner. LabLearner is an elementary school program aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards. Its philosophy centers around the belief that students learn Science best through active learning experiences. Along with the lab experiments, we will continue to use the curriculum LabLearner. LabLearner is an elementary school program aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards. Its philosophy centers around the belief that students learn Science best through active learning experiences. Each unit provides students with the opportunity for hands-on inquiry, observation, and collaborative learning groups. Students will have a lab workbook for each unit. Topics to be covered in 2nd grade are: Weight & Volume, The Earth’s Surface and its Changing Journey, Water Cycle & Its Phases, Investigating Sound, and Health & Hygiene.

**Social Studies**

In Second Grade Social Studies, students will learn about how their community works as well as the variety of ways in which communities organize themselves. They will begin to examine the geographic and economic aspects of life in their own neighborhoods and compare them to those of people long ago. They will gain a deeper understanding of geography and specifically that of North America, using maps to locate and identify different types of places, such as bodies of water, mountains, the equator, etc. Students will also learn more about government, its roles and how officials are chosen. We will cover important historical figures as well as American holidays and important dates and events.

**Homework**

It is expected that students should be reading throughout the week as well as practicing their Math Facts. Most nights they will be given homework in the areas of Reading and Math. Homework will typically consist of either a reinforcement handout or an online activity. These activities will focus on the skills and strategies being taught that week.

If homework is not completed and turned in, students will receive a homework slip. This slip is to be **signed and returned** to school the next day with the missing homework sheet. If failed to be turned in, the assignment will be **entered into PowerSchool as a 0.**

Starting in 2nd Grade, students begin to use an assignment notebook. Their assignment notebook is used to write down their homework/ important information. We ask that parents sign their child’s assignment notebook **DAILY** to ensure that homework is getting completed.

**Assessments**

Weekly Reading Comprehension and Spelling tests will be given on Fridays! Spelling will not begin for a few weeks, and Reading assessments will begin after Labor Day!

Subjects such as Math, Science, Social Studies, and Religion will have tests following chapters/units. We do our best to send home material to best prepare the students for these assessments!

**Online Learning**

**i-Ready**

Iready is an online K-8 learning platform for Math and Literacy. Its adaptive curriculum creates a unique, individualized education plan for each student. It allows students to progress as quickly as they like while also providing supplemental instruction and support when needed. Our expectation is for each student to spend 45 minutes in each subject per week working on their own learning plan. Some of this will be done in school and some will be completed at home. Students will complete iReady for homework: **25 minutes of Reading on Monday & 25 minutes of Math on Wednesday.**

IReady goes into the gradebook after each trimester as its own individual grade. If students are not completing it, it will affect their grade.

Please reach out to us directly if there are any issues regarding completing iReady at home.

**Weekly Specials Schedules**

| **Day/Teacher** | **Ms. Walsh** | **Mrs. Malloy** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Monday** | SEL | Art |
| **Tuesday** | Art | Technology |
| **Wednesday** | Technology | SEL |
| **Thursday** | Gym | Music |
| **Friday** | Music | Gym |

\*The 2nd graders will also attend a weekly mass on Tuesday mornings.

**REcess & Lunch**

**2nd Grade will NOT be given a snack this year**. PLEASE make sure your child eats a full, healthy breakfast in the morning because it can negatively affect their learning if they are distracted by hunger!

Lunch & recess will be from 11:35 to 12:05!

**Classroom Management**

This year the whole school will be participating in Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). St. Cajetan uses a school wide behavior intervention plan. PBIS is a decision making, operational process to improve academic and behavioral outcomes for all students by guiding selection, integration, and implementation of the best evidence-based academic and behavioral practices.

In our classrooms, students are expected to be safe, be respectful, be kind, and be responsible. Students who exhibit these behaviors will be awarded through classroom incentives.

Each month, we will work as a class to build our “We Bloom Together” flower. If the class is caught making good choices, following classroom expectations, or gets a compliment from another teacher, they receive a petal on their flower. Once the flower is complete with ten petals, the whole class will be rewarded (icecream party, pajama day, extra recess, etc.)

Additional information regarding Code of Conduct and the PBIS System can be found in the Parent Handbook.

**“Caj Coins”**

Individually students will be working to earn “Caj Coins”. Students earn a Caj Coin when they are following classroom expectations. Students will earn coins for behaviors such as helping others, being on task, and participating.

On Fridays, students will spend their earnings on rewards at the Caj Coin Store.

**Think SHEETS**

When students are having a difficult time following classroom expectations, they will be given 3 opportunities to correct their behavior. If students are unable to correct the undesired behavior they will be sent home with a “Think Sheet” for their parents to sign. If your child comes home with a “Think Sheet”, please use this as an opportunity to discuss your child’s behavior at home. Three “Think Sheets” sent home over the course of a month may result in your child being excluded from the whole class incentive.

**Remind**

We will be using the Remind App to share classroom news and/or announcements. If you haven’t done so, please consider signing up. It’s a wonderful communication tool and the app is free.

To sign up … Text: **81010** and Message**: @he7c8b** or **@bf33h6**

(for Mrs. Malloy) (for Ms. Walsh)

**Growth Mindset**

A positive theme we promote in our classrooms throughout the year is Growth Mindset. Teachers as well as parents have a powerful impact on a child’s mindset. The language we use and the actions we take show children what we expect. Giving praise on the process versus the accomplishment, accepting mistakes as learning opportunities, and understanding the role of emotions in learning are practices that we can implement in helping a child grow in confidence and perseverance.

We look forward to an exciting and successful school year with your children! If you should ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us via Remind or at our emails listed below.

**Email: kewalsh@cajetan.org**

**kmalloy@cajetan.org**

Sincerely,

Mrs. Malloy and Ms. Walsh