

# A SNAPSHOT OF 2ND GRADE

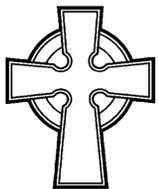
*Welcome to the 2018-2019 School Year!*

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.

## RELIGION

This year we will be using the new series Blest 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 every Tuesday morning. 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. Below, you will find the date of their First Holy Communion (Time to be determined). The date of Reconciliation has yet to be scheduled. Please note, along with these sacraments there will be rehearsal times after school, as well as a Communion Retreat. Further information will be given as the sacraments draw near.



RECONCILIATION

(TBD)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

May 4th, 2019

## 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 a partner, 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 with 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 second-grade spelling lists will be made up of 15 words. The list will consist of 12 words that follow a specific phonics pattern and 3 high frequency words (most common words used in reading and writing). Students will be given a pretest at the beginning of each week. Students who score 12/15 on the pretest will be given a challenge word list for the

week. On Fridays, students will be tested on their respective list and will be graded on their performance.

## MATH

We are excited about the new curriculum GOMath! GOMath's curriculum takes an interactive and engaging approach that aligns with Common Core Standards while also allowing for student discovery and discussion.

- Addition & Subtraction Facts
- Place Value to 1000
- Data & Graphing
- Addition & Subtraction of Two-Digit Numbers
- Money & Time
- Geometry

Within each skill area, students will be encouraged to explore their thinking, use math manipulatives, and utilize strategies to aid in their problem solving. Our children will also engage in Math Talks where students will practice using their math vocabulary and gain greater confidence in their knowledge and understanding of each mathematical concept.

Another component of our math program will be timed math tests. These are 1 minute tests with roughly 30 problems. Each student will start with addition facts and once they demonstrate mastery they will move onto subtraction facts. Mastery of these facts are important because they form the building blocks to higher-level math concepts.

**Studying their math facts should happen multiple times per week and will be part of their weekly homework.**

## science

As many of you may have seen during the Ice Cream Social/Meet the Teacher Night, we have a new Science/STEM Lab. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to use this state of the art lab with our students. Along with the lab, we have been provided with new curriculum called LabLearner. LabLearner is an elementary school program aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards. It's philosophy centers around the belief that students learn Science best through active learning experiences. Each unit provides students with the opportunities for hands-on inquiry, observation, and collaborative learning groups. Students will have a lab workbook for each unit. Topics to be covered in 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 weeks 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.

## **Online Learning**

### **MobyMax**

MobyMax is an online K-8 learning platform for Math, Literacy, Science, and Social Studies. Its adaptive curriculum creates a unique, individualized education plan for each student, allowing them to progress as quickly as they like while simultaneously ensuring that remedial students get the extra instruction they need.

### **Read Theory**

[readtheory.org](http://readtheory.org)

Read Theory is an excellent online reading tool that offers reading activities for all ages and ability levels. The program adapts to each student's ability levels and presents them with reading passages followed by skill building comprehension questions.

MobyMax and Read Theory may be used for weekly homework. Usernames and passwords will be sent home in the near future. Both programs have an initial assessment portion that we will complete at school.

## **Weekly Specials Schedules**

Day/Teacher	<b>MRS. DOHERTY</b>	<b>MRS. DUDASH</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Technology	Social Emotional Learning
<b>Tuesday</b>	Art	Technology
<b>Wednesday</b>	Social Emotional Learning	Art
<b>Thursday</b>	Music	Gym

<b>FRIDAY</b>	Gym	Music
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\*The 2nd graders will also attend weekly mass every Tuesday morning.

## SNACK & LUNCH

Snack time for both classrooms usually falls between 9:15 – 9:45a.m. The times vary day to day due to our scheduled specials. Please remember that snacks should be healthy and candy should not be sent for snack time.

## CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

This year the whole school will be participating in Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) – Clipboard System. This plan will be based off a point system. Each student will begin each month with 30 points. Students lose points for inappropriate behavior. Students who maintain 27 points per month will be able to participate in the monthly incentive.

Students will lose points for the following behaviors:

- disrespectful behaviors in all areas of the school (classrooms, specials, lunchroom, playground, and church)
- negative peer interactions (bullying, excluding others, tattling)
- physical peer interactions (pushing, shoving)
- disrespectful behaviors towards teachers and support staff
- incorrect uniform

	SEPT	OCT	NOV	NOV/DEC	Jan	FEB	Mar	APR	May
<b>incentives</b>	Donut Day	Kennedy Park	Game Day	Movie & PJ Day	CSW Field Trip	Pizza Day	Sundae Bar	Fun Fair	School Picnic

Within each classroom, we will be using a color system that will reward students for going above and beyond classroom expectations. Students will begin each day on green. After a verbal warning, student will have to move their clip to yellow. A point will not be deducted for this. If the behavior continues, the student clip will be moved to red and they will lose a point immediately. Students who have been given a warning and were moved to yellow will have an opportunity to move their clip back to green if their behavior improves. For students who model positive behavior, their clip can be moved up to teal on the behavior chart. If they are exhibiting excellent behavior they can be moved even further up the chart to purple.

**NOTE: Parents will be notified each time their child lands on red and/or loses a point.**

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

## 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: **@Doherty24** or **@Dudash22**  
(for Mrs. Doherty) (for Mrs. Dudash)

## 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. In an effort to get to know your child, we would appreciate you taking the time to fill out the attached form and return it to school. If you should ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us via Remind or at our emails listed below.

Email: [bkdoherthy@cajetan.org](mailto:bkdoherthy@cajetan.org)  
[sdudash@cajetan.org](mailto:sdudash@cajetan.org)

Kindly,

Mrs. Doherty & Mrs. Dudash