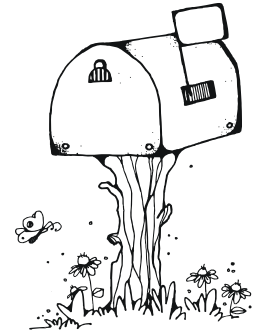


August 29, 2018



Dear Second Grade Families,

This packet of information will be one of the **MOST IMPORTANT** that I send home throughout the school year. Please find a safe place to store it so that you can refer to it, if you have any questions, throughout the year. For questions that cannot be answered, please do not hesitate to contact me at school anytime. My Marshall Elementary phone number is 878-6363. My email address is lfinkbeiner@bcpsk12.net. Jotting a note and sending it with your child to school is also a fantastic way to communicate with me.

## **Needed Materials**

Your child should have received a note before open house as to the materials that they need to bring with them on the first day of school. We will be using these materials immediately so if you haven't had a chance to purchase them, please do so before the end of this first week.

## **Math**

We are using a math series entitled *Math Expressions* in Byron Center. Because this math program teaches math concepts differently than the way you and I learned them, when work comes home, it can be difficult for you and your child to understand. Have no fear! Just know that any method the student uses to get the correct answer is an option, this series just gives many alternatives strategies to solving the same problem. Please let me know if you have any questions if and when they arise.

## **Reading**

We use "Units of Study for Teaching Reading; A Workshop Curriculum" by Lucy Calkins for our reading curriculum. The workshop model uses a mini-lesson, independent reading, conferring, paired reading, and sharing as its primary methodology. Shared Reading and Interactive Read Alouds are also incorporated throughout the year.

## **Writing**

For writing, we use "Units of Study in Opinion, Information, and Narrative Writing; A Common Core Workshop Curriculum" by Lucy Calkins. This program incorporates the same workshop methodology as the reading program.

## **Word Work**

Our Word Work time is set-up as a word study system of learning. Word study provides students with opportunities to investigate and understand the patterns in words. Knowledge of these patterns means that students needn't learn to spell one word at a time. We do Word Work three times a week, for a three-week cycle. New words are given out on Day 1. We cut up our word cards and discuss the patterns that we see and hear. We then spend Day 2-Day 8 doing various activities with these words and word cards to gain a deeper appreciation for the sound and letter patterns in each word. On Day 9, we sort our words a final time and glue stick them into our Word Work Notebooks. We then have a permanent word vault of all the patterns we have practiced over time that we can revisit and use for spelling and reading practice. Word Work is done exclusively in school. You may see practice activities come home at the end of a cycle but those do not need to be returned to school.

## **Handwriting**

Our district uses the *Handwriting without Tears* program. We will be using the workbook throughout the school year.

## **Science and Social Studies**

We use a program called, "Social Studies Alive" for our social studies curriculum. In science, we are using a new curriculum this year called, "Mystery Science."

## **Super Switch**

Every day, all second graders will go with either a second grade teacher or a paraeducator for additional reading instruction at their individual levels. This will be mostly in a small group format.

## **Home Folders**

Beginning the first week of school, your child will be bringing home a folder every evening. Inside this folder will be notes for home and graded papers. It is very important for you to look through this folder and empty it out every night. If you have any questions about anything, please feel free to jot me a note or send me an email. This will help keep the lines of communication between home and school open and clear.

## **Homework**

There will be homework assigned every WEDNESDAY. It comes home in a "Homework Folder." This homework will need to be completed and returned to school on WEDNESDAY of the following week in the "Homework Folder." All homework returned on time is awarded with tickets toward the prize box. Homework may also be referred to as

"Weekly Wednesday Work" (WWW). There are usually three pages of math practice for homework every week. This is not new material for your student. If at any time, it seems to be taking too long to complete or they don't seem to understand what they need to do, have them stop the assignment. Jot a note to me on the homework and send it back into school with your student.

## **Newsletters and Web Page**

There will be a weekly newsletter, sent home via email, detailing important notes and events for each week. My website address is: <http://mrsfinkbeinersclass.weebly.com>. It is updated weekly with curriculum information along with important up-coming dates. I also will post descriptions and pictures of things we have been doing in class.

## **Behavior Clip Chart**

Each student starts the beginning of the day with a clean slate on the behavior clip chart. Throughout the day, a student can clip up the chart for demonstrating excellent behavior choices or clip down for not making good choices. Every student starts on the "Ready To Learn" space of the chart. If at the end of the day, the student has not clipped up or clipped down, they will receive three tickets towards the prize box.

If a student is caught being good, doing the right thing without reminders, following directions the first time, etc., they can clip up to the next space. If a student clips up once, they land on the "Good Day" space and will get four tickets at the end of the day. If they clip up twice, they will land on the "Great Day" space and get five tickets. Three clip ups and a student gets six tickets to use toward the prize box.

If a student does not make a good behavior choice at school, they will be asked to clip down to "Stop and Think". This is considered a warning for their behavior. The student will receive two tickets at the end of the day. If a student continues to make poor choices, they will clip down again to "Teacher's Choice." This means the student would only receive one ticket at the end of the day and owe five minutes of recess. If a student continues to make poor choices, they will have to clip down a third time to "Parent Contact." This means that the student would not receive any tickets for the day and will miss one recess. Along with that, they will have to bring home a red note that needs to be signed by a parent and brought back to school the next day. The student will have to discuss with a parent the behavior choices they made that day.

## **Tickets and Prize Box**

There are three ways that students can earn tickets. The first is to return their home folder every day. It needs to be emptied every evening before being brought back to school. The second is to make good behavior choices throughout the day. The third way is to bring back their homework. After the student saves 25 tickets, they get to get a prize out of the prize box. The prize box is filled with candy, stickers, small toys, etc.

## **Birthdays**

We love to celebrate birthdays in our classroom. If your child would like to bring a treat for their birthday, they are more than welcome. When planning the treat, bring in enough for 27 students. Please avoid any tree nuts in the birthday treats so that we are sensitive to those with allergies in our classroom. We are more than happy to celebrate summer birthdays toward the end of the school year, or if you desire, you can send in a birthday treat on your child's half birthday.

## **Snack**

Because 2nd graders are growing so quickly, I schedule a snack time during the day. Students are encouraged to bring in a nutritious snack to enjoy at that time. I am not super strict on that policy (I like a cookie during the day every so often too☺), but I would appreciate that there be NO candy, gum or juice. Here are a few ideas for you: cheese, crackers, fruit, yogurt, veggies, fruit snacks, goldfish, pretzels, 100 calorie packs, granola bars, and Cheez-Its.

## **Bathroom Policy**

Each student will have the opportunity to use the bathroom every day at several different times. These times include: before school, during the snack and bathroom break, before lunch recess, after lunch, before last recess, and at the end of the day. The students will also receive a pass for an emergency that they may have during the week. This pass can only be used once a week. Please let me know if your child has an issue that requires them to use the bathroom more often so that I can accommodate their needs.

## **Vacations**

I know that sometimes vacations occur during the school year for families. Because the amount of work that I cover can vary from day to day, I will supply any work that needs to be completed AFTER the child returns from vacation. Therefore, you have more time to actually enjoy your vacation with your families.

I know this is a lot of information to absorb all at once, but please take the time to read everything carefully and explain it to your child. I am really looking forward to working with you in the future and throughout this up-coming year. Have a great day and please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or comments. Thanks again for your cooperation.

Your Partner in Education,

*Laura Finkbeiner*