

Second Grade

Parent Handbook

P.S. 153



Dear Parents,

We hope that this handbook will help you know what to expect in 2nd grade this year and answer any questions you may have.

Please read and review these policies with your child. These will explain many of our expectations for you and your child. We would appreciate your support in order to meet these expectations. Explaining the procedures and policies will help your child know what is expected of him or her. We believe that if we work together as a team your child will succeed academically and socially.

Thank You for your continued support.

Sincerely,

The Second Grade

Teachers

Our Email Addresses:

Mrs. Giacchi- JGiacchi@schools.nyc.gov

Mrs. Cipriano- dcipriano2@schools.nyc.gov

Mrs. Savage- jsavage2@schools.nyc.gov

Mrs. Orenstin- anardo2@schools.nyc.gov

P.S. 153's Mission

We work and strive hard to make PS 153 a fun, safe and college and career ready elementary school that every NYC child wants to attend, and every parent dreams of their children attending.

WE STRIVE FOR SUCCESS!!

In 2nd grade we build on the school's mission by preparing the children to be independent thinkers and learners, in order to face the ever evolving challenges of the world today and in the future.

Annual Highlights

September- Meet the teacher\Orientation

October- Fall Harvest Celebration\Walk-a-thon

November- Parent Teacher Conferences,
Thanksgiving Feasts

December- School Holiday Show

January-

February-

March- Parent Teacher Conferences and Learning
Environment Survey

April- State ELA test for grades 3-5

May- Carnival **June**- Field Day, End of Year
Assemblies And Honor Roll

Schoolnet

The New York City Department of Education's Achievement Reporting And Innovation System (Schoolnet) provides a single place where educators can go to find and study important information about your child. Principals and teachers use this information to find out how to best help your child.

Schoolnet Parent Link (MySchoolNyc) makes this same important information available for you, so you can work together with your child and your child's teacher to help your child learn. Schoolnet Parent Link uses secure login features to be sure the information can only be viewed by members of his or family.

Here are some reasons to view your child's Schoolnet profile:

*Verify emergency contact information (Blue card information is not necessarily updated in schoolnet—therefore it is important to notify the school promptly with any changes you may have)

*View Absences and Lateness record

*View NYS ELA and Math Scores

We encourage you to view your child's information. This is an excellent tool to become an active partner in your child's education. For information on how to log on, contact Mrs. Suarez.

ATTENDANCE

School attendance and punctuality are essential for a successful school year. Your child's regular and prompt attendance at school is crucial to his/her success. **We can't emphasize this point enough.** School starts at 8:00am everyday. Dismissal is at 2:20pm M-F, for the general student population. Please see that

your child attends school **on time** everyday. All latecomers must enter through the main entrance. Excessive lateness/absences will result in a truant officer conducting a visit to your home. In cases of an illness or emergency absence please send a doctor's note or an explanation from a parent as to why your child was out.

*Children between the ages of 6-16 are mandated by law to be in attendance.

*As per the Chancellor's Regulations, 90% attendance is required for promotion. Please understand that lateness is also taken into consideration.

*Doctors and dental appointments should be scheduled when school is not in session.

*Vacation should be planned in conjunction with the school calendar. **Pre-notification of an extended vacation is required, as well as copy of airline tickets if you are traveling outside the US.**

*Children should not be taken out of school early unless there is an emergency. Try not to sign out during your child's lunch period. Classrooms are shut, when the teacher is not in class.

Half Days

All students must have a signed "Half Day Notice" in order to be dismissed on a half day. Parents are responsible for making arrangements for their children to be picked up on time (11:20am) There are no after school programs on half days. Lunch is available. Bus schedules are adjusted accordingly. The School Year Calendar is on-line @ nycschools.gov

Anticipated half-days are:

Parent Teacher Conferences in November and March

The last day of school in June

Breakfast and Lunch Program

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. It is important that all students eat a healthy breakfast. Breakfast is **FREE** for all students. If your child is a walker and you would like to take advantage of this program, please make every effort possible to arrive at school by 7:45am, so your child has time to eat and is not late for class. All children eating breakfast should enter through the schoolyard and proceed directly to the lunchroom.

Lunch is at **11:55am** Monday thru Friday. Weather permitting, children will be supervised in the schoolyard for a portion of the lunch period.

Classroom Management

Establishing good classroom routines is essential to each child's success, confidence and well-being. Every child should feel that the classroom environment is safe and secure. Since lifelong success depends in part on self-discipline we have developed a classroom discipline plan which affords every student guidance in making good decisions about their behavior and thus an opportunity to learn in a positive, nurturing class environment. Your child deserves the most positive educational climate possible for his\her growth and we know that together we will make a difference in this process. Please review the following rules with your child:

- 1- Follow directions the first time given.
- 2- Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
- 3- Be prepared each and everyday.
- 4- Always do your own work unless otherwise told.

As well as this classroom discipline plan, we as a school will still be participating in the PBIS program (a school wide discipline system) where children will earn certificates/lunch with the principal based on good behavior and homework completion.

Home/School Communication

The school network consists of students, parents, teachers, administration and support staff working together to educate our children. It is vital to the progress and success of every student that communication is established and maintained. Please check your child's folder every night for notices that need your attention.

It is necessary for parents and teachers to confer. Please make every attempt to attend parent-teacher conferences in November and March, when report cards are distributed. In addition, we will have curriculum night in Sept. and a TBD parent night in May. We will also continue with **parent engagement hours every Tuesday 2:20-3:00pm for your convinence.** At times, teachers or parents may need to address an issue immediately. In such a case, a written note or email should be sent to the teacher, which may be followed up with a telephone call, letter or conference. Most matters are best handled between the parent and the teacher. However, matters of more critical nature may warrant the intervention of the Principal and/or Assistant Principal. A parent with school concern may always contact the Parent Coordinator, Mrs. Yolanda Suarez.

Homework Policy

Homework is important because it reinforces what was learned in class, prepares children for upcoming lessons and teaches responsibility.

Homework is given daily. Each teacher will assign math, reading and writing homework each night to reinforce skills that were taught during the day. Students are expected to complete their homework in its entirety each night. Please provide a quiet, well lit place for your child to work. Please check homework sheet/book, and folders for assignments. We are requesting that you sign homework each day. If your child is having difficulty completing an assignment please email/write us a note.

Homework is awarded a grade on each student's report card, therefore homework needs to be completed and submitted on time in order to receive credit for the assignment. If your child is absent, you should request the homework go home with a sibling or neighbor.

Class Trips Policy

We will try to attend a trip a month as a means of extending our core curriculum. All trips will be for educational purposes, so we will try to keep the cost to a minimum. Prior to any class trip, a letter is sent home with each student describing the trip and explaining any fees involved. This note includes a permission slip that must be signed by the parent\guardian and returned to the teacher. No child will be allowed to attend a class trip without a signed permission slip. The teacher will also ask for parent volunteers to go on the trips. If the teacher does not get at least one parent volunteer the trip will be cancelled.

Assembly/Uniforms

Assemblies take place once a month. Students are requested to wear a white shirt and blue or black pants or skirt. Check for the dates of assemblies on the monthly calendar. Parents are invited to attend\view the programs.

We have a uniform policy. The uniform consists of navy blue pants or skirts and light/baby blue shirts either polo or button down. Uniforms can be purchased at S & D kids, children's place, JC Penny.

Classroom Birthday Celebrations

All celebrations are to be kept to a minimum. Birthday celebrations should be discussed and scheduled in advance with your child's classroom teacher via an email or written note. Please make sure any goodies sent in are easily distributed and **NUT FREE**. Drinks should be in individual containers (no glass). All items should be placed by the security desk and clearly labeled.

Curriculum

This year the whole school is using a balanced literacy approach to teaching reading through **Houghton Mifflin's Journeys** and Teacher's College Reading and Writing Project Units of Study for writing. In second grade the **reading units** are as follow: The **writing units** are as follows: Unit 1-Writing from the Masters, Unit 2- Informational Writing, Unit 3- Gripping Stories, Unit 4- Poetry, Unit 5- Writing About Reading, Unit 6- Writing Arguments About Books and Characters. Balanced Literacy is a combination of reading (read-aloud, shared reading, partnerships, book clubs, and independent reading) writing and phonics instruction. In addition, to the writing and reading curriculum listed above, we

will enhance the curriculum with I-ready reading, Moby Max and word study centers.

In **math** we will be using a program called **GO! Math**. This program differentiates classwork and homework for students based on their level, so don't worry if your child has different hw than a classmate they are all covering the standards that need to be met. The topics that we will cover are Place Value, Addition and Subtraction of Larger Numbers, Measuring and Estimating Length, Telling and Writing Time, Picture Graphs and Bar Graphs, and Geometry. There will be a Family Letter sent home at the beginning of each chapter, with an activity that you can complete with your child based on the skills the students are learning in that chapter. We will also enhance the curriculum with Math Exemplars and I-ready.

Assessments

Assessments are administered frequently to assess your child's progress and performance. This assists us in meeting your child's individual goals and needs. We will use a variety of assessment tools including Teacher's College Running Records, and Journeys Performance Assessments, conferences with the students as well as a math chapter test after each unit, and Math Performance Task. All assessments will be sent home and should be signed and returned the next day.

Next year your child be taking the state exams in both **ELA (Reading) and Math**. This year we will be preparing the children for these new tougher standards as they continue on their journey to be college and career ready. We ask that you also work with your child at home helping them succeed **The following are some of your responsibilities:**

Review and sign homework daily but please allow for your child to complete his\her own work.

Check folder for any notes and return any notices on time.

Participate in school and class events\activities.

Have pencils, crayons, glue and scissors at home so your child can do his\her homework completely.

Obtain a Library Card for your child, if they don't already have one.

Please send your child prepared everyday, but allow them to be responsible for their own actions if they forget something.

Second graders are learning to be more responsible each and everyday; so watch and allow them to accomplish this task. Our goal this year is for the students to become independent thinkers and learners.

Once again, we are looking forward to a great year working with your child. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support throughout the year./