

August Welcome Newsletter

Second Grade

Welcome to second grade! I am very excited to be your child's teacher this year and would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some general information about my teaching program and philosophy.

During our first several weeks of school we will focus on establishing an environment in which peers learn to value and respect one another as we grow and learn together this year. In order for true learning to take place, students must feel comfortable to express their ideas. It is my intention to have everyone's voice be heard. Clear rules and expectations will be established in class and followed through with consistency and fairness.

As open communication is necessary between peers, it is also vital for this to exist between home and school. I would greatly appreciate any information that you can give me throughout the year to better meet the needs of your child. I also welcome parent involvement in school when and where it is possible for you. More specific information will be sent home shortly, as soon as our daily routine has become well established.

Academically, I will be closely following the guidelines set forth in our curriculum. I will incorporate a variety of hands-on and cooperative learning activities, as well as use direct instruction and individual practice. With each unit of study I will take every opportunity to relate the information to real-life experiences. In all curriculum areas I will incorporate learning games into our program to offer times for practice in a fun and comfortable setting.

In addition to welcoming you, I am writing this letter to share some items to help your child make the transition from a busy summer to a busy school year.

Supplies- A backpack is necessary, as it ensures that your child's school papers and notices arrive home neatly and safely. The following items will be used daily in your child's classroom and if possible, it can be dropped off at our back to school Popsicle party on 8/30 or included in the backpack on the first day of school:

- A RED PLASTIC home/school folder (Plastic makes them last all year! more details listed below!)
- One set of Crayola broad tip markers- Classic Colors (although there are cheaper markers available, we have found these last far longer)
- 2-3 Large Glue Sticks
- One set of Crayola colored pencils
- One box of tissues
- One roll of paper towels

These items listed will be shared as community items. If there is a problem obtaining these supplies, please know that your child will have all of these items available to him/her.

Your child will be receiving homework and notices throughout the week in their Home-School

Red Folder. Please check this folder DAILY each evening and return it EACH DAY along with any notes for my attention. In addition to any *math homelinks* it is important that time be set aside daily for reading practice. Reading with your child will expand his or her vocabulary and use of language. I appreciate your help in maintaining this consistent expectation.

I have observed that the following items are not helpful for second grade students:
Trapper Keepers, ink pens or pencil cases.

Also, some important details:

Field Trips- Prior to any trip, a note will be sent home explaining our trip along with listing what will be needed (lunch, play clothes, money).

Celebrations- There will be numerous celebrations held during the school year. A note will go home before each event to explain what is needed or a phone call will be made by our soon to be designated room parent.

Snacks- Children are asked to bring in a healthy drink and snack ‘fuel’ daily (fruit, vegetable sticks, crackers, cheese, raisins, etc. A notice will be sent at the beginning of the year if there are any allergies in our class).

Projects- Hands on projects and activities are an important part of all themes your child will be working on this year. When needed, I will ask you to supply specific items or send in a small contribution to help defray costs involved.

Birthdays and holidays are special days, which will be celebrated in our classroom community. More information will be handed out during open house.

Finally, it would be helpful if you could send in an extra outfit for your child in a bag that is clearly marked with his or her name. In the second grade we sometimes fall in puddles, spill things and have accidents and it is much easier and less embarrassing if there are extra clothes at school. Also, please put your child’s name on his or her lunch box, backpack, outerwear, and anything else you can think of to help your child keep track of personal belongings.

I hope this newsletter has been helpful in answering questions that you may have. If you have any additional questions please feel free to email me at: kdowling@portsmouth.k12.nh.us and when school starts you can call me at school between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or you may always request a conference time. I will be sending home a newsletter each month as well as additional notices about any events or information to keep you updated on classroom happenings. I’m looking forward to a terrific year with you and your child!

I hope you and your child enjoy the summer and that this letter will answer some of the questions you might face in preparing for second grade. Looking forward to seeing you in August!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Karen Dowling ☺