Dear Second Grade Families,

Welcome to 2nd Grade! I wish all families an enjoyable summer! Over the summer, while it is ESSENTIAL that your child gets outside and plays a lot, it is also important that they continue to practice the skills they have learned this year. I ask that you assist your child in completing the following assignments for the summer.

**Mandatory Summer Work (Due Friday, September 7th, 2018)**

**1. Daily Reading:** At the beginning of the summer, students should set a weekly reading goal of the number of minutes they will read each week. I recommend 15 minutes/day for a total of 105 minutes a week. It is essential that students are reading independently at their independent reading levels for these 15 minutes. Students can always read other books of their choosing once they have read their independent reading level books for 15 minutes. I also encourage you to read with your child after they have completed their 15 minutes of independent reading so they can practice discussing reading which is a skill we do daily in 2nd grade. Once your reading level has been determined by their first grade teachers, I will send home a list of recommended books at your child’s independent reading level. You can also go to <http://home.comcast.net/~ngiansante/> for a list of leveled reading books, and you can go to <http://www.scholastic.com/bookwizard/> to search books on your child’s level, as well as check the reading level of a book your child is interested in reading.

Students should record their reading daily on the enclosed Reading Log. Students can always reread a book once they are done, and are encouraged to do so. Students should record the date, title, level (if known), starting page, ending page, and how many minutes they read that day.

**2. Reading Book Reports:** Students need to write one fiction and one non-fiction book report which are enclosed in the folder. The book reports focus on fiction elements of a story, and the non-fiction book reports focus on non-fiction text elements. It is important for students to be reading both Fiction and Non-Fiction books this summer. If your child is stronger in one of those two genres, they should focus more of their reading time to strengthening their skills in the other genre. Listed below are some skills they can start to build on to be well prepared for 2nd grade. Many of these skills will be taught throughout the year, but it is important to begin using this language in conversations about reading.

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| **Fiction Skills** | **Non-Fiction Skills** |
| Identify text features (title, author, illustrator) | Identify text features (title, author, photographs, labels, captions, table of contents, glossary, index) |
| ID characters (main and supporting) | ID facts vs. opinion sentences |
| Setting | Types of Non-Fiction books (historical, informational, biographies, autobiographies, science) |
| Problem and Solution | Asking questions before, during, and after reading |
| Character Dialogue using “quotation marks” | Purpose of text (inform you about…) |

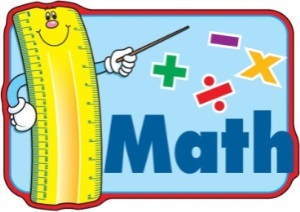
**3. Writing:** In the folder, you will find paper for a summer journal. Students need to fill out at least three entries. Student journals entries should be about what they are doing over the summer. The entry can be as simple as describing a day at Church Square Park or going out to dinner at a restaurant. I recommend that students fill out one entry a week so that they do not have to fill out three entries the last week of August. Of course, students are more than welcome to fill out more than three entries on the included extra journal pages.

**4. Phonics:** Finish the rest of your 1st Grade Code Books. This will be sent home on the last day of school. Once you are done, ask a parent to check it. Correct any mistakes. Return code book to school in September.

**Highly Recommended Summer Work:**

**1. Math:** Below are links to websites that allow students to practice their addition and subtractions facts. By the end of 2nd grade, students need to quickly solve addition and subtraction facts with answers through 20 (ex. The largest fact they need to know fluently is 10+10). It is highly recommended that students practice their addition and subtraction facts over the summer so they have a head start once they come back to school. You can also make flashcards and review them each day. I recommend making flashcards a part of your child routine. For example, they go through a few cards before dinner, review in the car, or when they are waiting for a sibling.

The bulk of our 2nd grade curriculum is adding, subtracting, and place value. We also learn about time, money, and shapes which are easy concepts to incorporate into a child’s routine as well. You can have your child count change at a the store or a tip at a restaurant, name 2-D and 3-D shapes while walking in town, and have them start to tell the time (digital and analog clocks) when you are getting ready to leave your home. These practices will help your child have a foundation when we reach these chapters in the year.

* <http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/math/htm>
* **iXL (Math and Language Arts): Complete any 1st grade activities not completed**
* [www.mathplayground.com](http://www.mathplayground.com)
* <http://vollmar2hcs.weebly.com/> (my class website… go to the Extra Activities and Ideas tab and there will be a list of websites along with their focus)



**2.** **Science and Social Studies:** Visit any museums, science centers, and historical landmarks throughout the summer! Makes for great journal entries ☺

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Have a wonderful summer! See you in September!