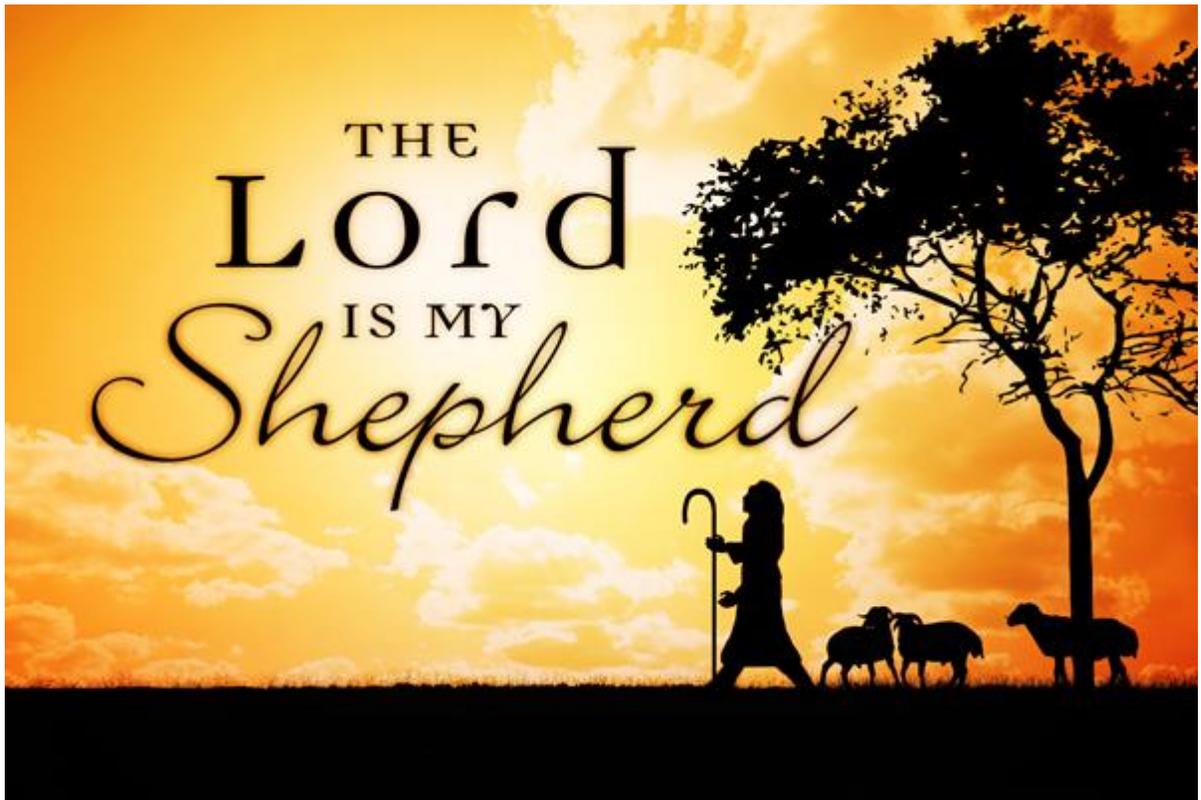


# Second Grade Parent



## Handbook

# Bryn Athyn Church School 2019-2020

## The State of Second Graders

As the children move from a state very grounded in the senses and full of innocence, to a stage where they consciously begin to test limits and can think from (rather than in) the senses, formal learning can be more effective. For most of the children the celestial angels have left and spiritual angels are present. This presence allows for a more academic, linear approach to learning. For example, they are just beginning to develop a vague sense that the stories in the Word are rather like their story. The characters in these stories are indeed "real" people.

Mediate good is a powerful motivator at this age. They have a general, simple notion of what is good and bad, right and wrong, and are beginning to see that these ideas are not limited by what their parents say. A personal code of behavior may begin. In our units throughout the year, we help the children use good judgment and charity when developing friendships. They are beginning to understand others' viewpoints, but they find that application of these viewpoints to themselves is difficult.

Cognitively, second graders still believe affirmatively that what they are taught by adults is true. Their sense of what is true is still one-dimensional and literal. They are learning to distinguish between fantasy and reality, and are therefore interested in what aspects of a story are true. They are developing awareness of cause and effect, and are capable of more abstract thinking and reasoning. However, their learning is most effective when it is grounded in sensual experience. Their ability to reason using language is increasing, and they are able to present ideas both orally and in writing. Critical evaluation of their own work in relation to others is developing, and they become more inclined to compare work across the class. We guide this self-evaluation by having each child focus on their strengths

Second graders' attention spans, small motor strength and coordination increases. Their eyes are ready for near and far, large and small work. Muscle growth matures also. They throw themselves into tasks and games, sometimes to exhaustion. Their environment is rapidly expanding. They can independently care for most of their physical needs and they take pride in their ability to manage themselves.

With this in mind, we offer a variety of learning experiences, so each child can feel successful in various ways. We know your child will enjoy the journey through second grade.

Information gleaned from the General Church Second Grade Religion Curriculum and W.D. Pendleton's *The Growth of a Mind*, "The Ninth Year."

## **Second Grade Curriculum**

### **Worship**

In second grade, the students begin a sequential study of the Word. Second graders learn the key stories of Genesis, starting with creation and ending with the story of Joseph, as well as a few topics chosen to meet the states and needs of second graders. The stories in Genesis are full of sensual imagery, illustrating the power and rewards of following the Lord. They provide a rich foundation for teaching the children about the Lord as their Shepherd and Creator, our religious theme in second grade.

The students learn the story of creation, and the rise and fall of the early churches, from Most Ancient to the Israelitish. While learning stories from the Ancient Word, the students are given an introduction to the Ancient Church and the Silver Age. The students learn of the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob), who followed the Lord with a simple, unquestioning faith, much like they have followed the adults in their lives up to this point. Second graders can understand this kind of faith even as they begin to outwardly question the adults in their lives. They still need the utter internal belief that the Lord and adults will be there for them whenever needed.

A unit on friendship reinforces and introduces key concepts concerning charity. Units on parables and heaven help them discuss ways to follow the Lord. Festival stories

enhance the concepts taught in other units, as well as building their affections for these special times of year. Each emphasizes the need for the children to follow the Lord as sheep follow their shepherd, and the overall religious school theme chosen for the year.

**Recitations:** We use various recitations throughout the year to reinforce our worship units, including festivals. The children also memorize the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, which is core for second grade, and the Ten Commandments. Recitations provide a great opportunity for parents to work with their children in learning the letter of the Lord's Word.

### Language Arts

**Reading:** Gradually, children in second grade begin to recognize that reading is a tool for learning. Because of this, we integrate our language arts as much as possible with our units in science and social studies. This gives us more time to cover our special units in detail, and for experiments and projects. In order to reach the needs of each child, our reading methods vary. We sometimes read in groups of heterogeneous ability. Occasionally we echo read or choral read as a class. Often we read in pairs, or groups of three or four. The children are also asked to respond to the reading in many ways that incorporate a variety of learning styles. Their listening and appreciation level exceeds their reading ability. Because of this, we read them a wide variety of both fiction and non fiction books to further supplement their learning. We will be using the Daily 5 as a framework for teaching reading and writing skills, which allows for more frequent teacher and student conferencing to help all students grow as readers.

**Phonics/Spelling:** We follow a workbook in order to cover the required phonics for second grade. Our spelling focuses on correct use of high frequency words in daily writing, and recognition of basic spelling patterns. Weekly spelling lists are included in this handbook, along with other ways to help your child learn their spelling words. Our classroom has a word wall that helps students be accountable for correct spelling in their daily work.

**Writing:** We work on both imaginative and factual writing. Occasionally the children are free to write stories on any subject they wish and illustrate them. At other times they

will be writing on subjects we are studying in science and social studies, and be introduced to simple research. We focus on writing complete sentences, which includes basic writing mechanics.

**Handwriting:** The first half of second grade is spent mastering the printed alphabet. We will begin cursive in the winter term, and students may want to attempt to write in cursive in their work when we have learned all the letters. A copy of both alphabets can be found in this folder.

**Hebrew:** In the fall and winter, we will also learn the letters of the Hebrew alphabet. This is special to the children because the Old Testament was written in Hebrew, and it augments our study of Early Nomads and the Hebrew patriarchs in Genesis.

**Library:** Our class has library once a week. They have the option of checking out books at that time. The children are given opportunities to return their books early, if they wish, or during library time. The library will inform the students weekly of overdue books through written notices. Any questions about library books should be addressed to the librarian, Sharon Neiger (ext. 227).

### **Math**

We use the Envision Math program and the New Math Standards recommended, along with the rest of the Primary Unit. Every day we work on reviewing basic addition and subtraction facts using the Rocket Math program. This mastery is essential for future math development, and it is useful to practice at home as well. In particular, we use these basic facts to learn multi-digit addition and subtraction with regrouping. Some other specifics we will be teaching are: measurement, money, time (to five minutes), problem solving, fractions, estimation, geometry, place value, and graphing. We end the year by introducing multiplication and division. We use a variety of games and activities to reinforce these math concepts.

## **Science**

Second grade science units focus on the miracles to be found in the Lord's creation. We introduce the children to the Lord's three kingdoms (animal, vegetable, mineral), and study parts of them in depth. We discuss how different parts of the Lord's creation are useful to us, and how we in turn must care for them. The units we study are:

- Bees
- Birds
- Water
- Weather
- Magnets
- Muscles
- Ants
- Baby Animals
- Fish
- Plants

## **Social Studies**

Social Studies in second grade reflect the theme of "The Lord is our Shepherd," as we learn how the Lord provides for people around the world. In addition, we note how geography effects specific cultures, especially their food, clothing and shelter. This forms the basis for our study of how communities work, and helps us compare various ancient cultures. Social studies units are:

- Our community
- Native People (American Indians)
- Hebrew Patriarchs and Early Nomads
- Ancient Egypt

During the year we will have a Native American feast and an Ancient Egyptian Celebration. The feast takes place during the school day, while the celebration is an evening event that family members and the community are invited to.

## **Class Meetings**

Class Meetings serve as a forum for students to work on their interpersonal skills. We discuss the school bullying program, ways to behave as friends, and other such topics. We also deal with issues that arise in the classroom as they come up. During class meetings we will also discuss

social and behavioral targets which we will work on throughout the week. Our goal through class meetings is to help the students achieve social and emotional growth as they learn self-awareness skills and focus on positive communication with their classmates.

### **Computer**

We visit the computer lab most weeks. The children learn how to care for the computer, login to the network, and manipulate the mouse. Our computer activities include drill and reinforcement of math concepts, phonics concepts and spelling words, creative writing, and interactive programs that augment our science units.

### **Specialists**

Art	Linda Kees
Music	Nathan Odhner
Physical Education	Heather McCurdy, Alex Rogers
Library	Kelly Austin, Shannon Good

### **BACS Homework Policy for Second Grade**

Second grade homework represents an increase in time and responsibility from the homework in first grade. This continues to help them prepare for future schooling, in accordance with BACS policy. We try to provide homework that is appropriate to the children's developmental state. The homework is designed to provide practice for work that the children do during class time.

In second grade, homework should take no longer than 25 minutes. Homework assignments include daily recitation practice (5 minutes) and reading (10 minutes). In addition, a math activity will be assigned each night for the first term (10 minutes). Recitations are usually assigned for 2 weeks and your child should spend several minutes a night memorizing in a variety of ways. We also practice recitations each day in school.

Homework should be handed in when students arrive at school, unless they have a note from a parent.

Please contact your child's teacher about any homework challenges. We understand that at times family commitments may impact the completion of homework. A note sent in lieu of homework will be an adequate explanation and in most cases will not need to be made up by the student.

Second grade children often need the support of a parent/caregiver in order to effectively complete homework assignments. This may include practicing recitations, reading with your child, and helping your child select appropriate reading material. Homework activities can often give parents a window into some of the concepts we are covering, and how your child is progressing with the skills involved. Please note that the expected time of 25 minutes is a goal to be met at some point during the year that best fits your child's abilities.

### **Helpful Hints**

#### **Arrival times:**

- It is beneficial for students to arrive promptly. This allows them to check in with their teacher and get ready for the day.
- Mornings: 7:45-8:00 am. Students who arrive in the classroom later than 8:00 am are late. Exceptions are made for bussed students.
- Afternoons: 12:55-1:00 pm. Students who arrive later than 1:00 pm are late.
- If your child is late, remind them to stop by the school secretary's office to pick up a late slip. Parents will be notified when your child is late according to the school lateness policy.

#### **Dismissal times:**

- Mornings: 12:15 pm
- Afternoons: 2:30 pm
- Please send in a note or an e-mail if your child is going home in a different way, this really helps to eliminate potential confusion.

#### **Absences/Lateness**

- Contact via email Natalie (school Secretary) and copy your child's teacher if your child will be late or is not coming to school. You may also call the school to report your child's absence or tardiness.

**Food**

- Please have your children bring a snack for recess time every day and lunch Monday through Thursday.
- On Monday through Thursday, your child will also need a lunch. Microwaves are available for lunches, provided they require 30 second or less of heat up time. Trading or sharing food will not be permitted.

**Recess & P.E.**

- Please have your children bring a note, if for some reason, you do not want them participate in physical education.
- Appropriate shoes are needed on the days the children have P.E. (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday).
- Dress your children in whatever outdoor clothing, including boots, you want them to have on when they go outside. Most recess times are outside, unless there is inclement weather. (In case of inclement weather, second grade teachers will make a joint decision.)
- Children must bring boots when there is snow on the ground in order to be allowed outside.

**Birthdays**

- Children still love to celebrate their birthdays at school in second grade. I will acknowledge your child's birthday with the class.
- If your child has a summer birthday they will be acknowledged near the end of the school year.
- Please do not have your child hand out invitations of any kind at school unless everyone in the class/grade is invited.

**Holidays**

- Children may bring gifts for the classroom if they wish. They may also bring holiday gifts or cards for their classmates, provided they bring something for everyone.

**Lost & Found**

- One of the lockers in the primary hallway is marked "Lost & Found." Please check for missing belongings regularly. There are several other areas in the school you can check for lost items as well.

**Class Mom and Volunteering**

- The class mom will contact you for help with various projects and activities throughout the year.

**Communication with the teacher**

- Please feel free to contact me at any time about any particular concerns you may have, or just to find out how everything is going.

Liz Switzer (ext. 262)                      Cell 215-385-4855

[liz.switzer@bacs.org](mailto:liz.switzer@bacs.org)

I look forward to a successful year with your child in  
second grade!