

Parent Information for Ms. Archibald's Class

As we begin a new school year, I am anxious to become better acquainted with you so that we can work together to ensure that your child has the most successful second grade year possible. Please feel free to call or email me whenever you have a concern about your child or if you have a question about anything that is happening in our classroom. My email address is:

aaarchibald@graniteschools.org

I will usually email you with any concerns or questions I may have regarding your child. I will call you if it is extremely important. Please make sure your information is current and legible on your child's registration card.

For those of you with Internet access, my classroom website can be found at:

<https://aarchibald.weebly.com>

On this site, you can find reminders for upcoming special events, homework reminders, and links to learning activities for math, reading, and spelling.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD

- Praise your child often.
- Check papers each night.
- Listen to your child read. Be patient-- reading requires repetition, review, and lots of encouragement.
- Help your child memorize and write his / her phone number & address and tie his or her own shoes!
- Help your child memorize addition and subtraction facts.

DONATIONS

- Ziploc baggies (sandwich and snack size)
- Kleenex or other brands of tissue... to take care of runny noses throughout the year. (One box per student is requested.)
- Dry Erase Markers
- Erasers (Pink Pearl and / or pencil top)
- Hand sanitizer

CURRICULUM

Language Arts will consist of large and small group instruction, spelling practice, Lexia practice on our Chromebooks, and Writing Workshop. Five years ago, Granite School District purchased a new Common Core aligned language arts program called Reading Wonders. I will be utilizing this program this year as my main teaching tool.

Math reinforces standards mandated by the Utah Common Core. Our math program is called iReady. It is taught and practiced utilizing online components. **Math homework will not be sent home this year.** I have found that students who understand the concept taught during the day finish their homework quickly and usually return it the next day. Students who struggle with new concepts and/or have little home support, never do their homework. Those who don't quite understand the concept will have a chance to practice that specific concept again during math small group time.

In lieu of a math homework page, please be consistent in working with your child on his or her math facts at least 5 minutes a day.

BACKPACKS

Please be sure your child brings a backpack to school every day. Papers are less likely to be lost if they are carried in a backpack or bag of some sort. Plastic grocery sacks will be supplied for those students who forget to bring one or can't afford one. Please make it a habit to ask your child to see his or her schoolwork and check for homework and notes every day.

HOMEWORK

Granite School District has mandated that all second graders should do 20 minutes of reading each evening. The only other required homework will be math fact practice until all math facts are passed. Homework should not take more than 40 minutes each night unless your child has not completed his / her assignments in class. If this is the case, it will take longer than 40 minutes. (If a student does not finish his assignment in class, it is usually because he or she has chosen to not use his / her time wisely... either by talking too much, by goofing off, or by not focusing their attention on their work.)

I require homework to be done Monday through Thursday:

#1: **READING:** 20 minutes each night. (At least Monday-Thursday + Friday and the weekend, if possible.)

Public library books, paper decodables that might be sent home (depending on your child's reading level), and / or books from a home library could be read for the required reading minutes.

#2: **SPELLING:** Spelling homework will be optional this year. It will be sent home on Mondays and students should return it completed on Friday.

RECESS

Whenever possible, **your child should go out for recess**. I will keep students in when it rains or when it is very cold and/ or snowy. If a child must stay in because he/ she has been ill, I will need a daily note from home. Please keep in mind that I am obligated to stay in my classroom when there are students in my room. This means I cannot use the restroom myself, run off missing work, or check my box at the office when your child needs to stay in. Please send notes only when absolutely necessary and **please be sure your child is properly dressed for the weather!**

STUDENT FOLDERS/BEHAVIOR TRACKING

Fox Hills Elementary will provide each student with a folder. This folder will be used to carry daily work home and will have a pocket dedicated for the homework packet. It will also be used as a home communicator for behavior. It can also be used for you to send information that I may need to know, such as upcoming appointments or vacations. Folders will go home daily.

GRADING

Granite School District is transitioning to PBL. (Proficiency Based Learning) 2nd graders are now graded on a 1-4 scale.... with 3 meaning "Proficient". A grade of "4" is only for those students who have gone above and beyond mastery. Very few 4's will be awarded with this new system. If your child receives all 3's, they are doing fine and have met all their requirements for that subject for the term. Math, Science, and Social Studies will be graded utilizing the PBL system this year. Language Arts will remain the same as in past years.

I grade all student tests in all subject areas. Tests account for the majority of your child's grade. Homework is no longer a part of the grading system. Scores on assignments done in school make up the remaining portion of the grade.

I DO NOT grade student's in-class work regularly because we often do it together. I record assignments as completed or not. If a poor score is obtained on a test, and the student wishes to improve his or her grade, they may retake it with a note from home, stating that the student has practiced the content and would like another try.

I am looking forward to another great year. If you have any questions about the information in this packet, please don't hesitate to contact me.