

## Second Grade

2017 - 2018



### Contacting Mrs. Kupitz

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I will check agendas daily and respond when I see a note.

### Class Rule

1. Love one another

This is what all of our decisions will be focused on. What does Jesus mean when he tells us to love? We show love in so many ways throughout each day, and we will try to improve our self discipline skills by focusing on this important lesson.

### Class Expectations

1. Respect teachers, classmates, and visitors.
2. Listen to whomever is speaking.
3. Share yourself and your things.
4. Work hard independently and as a team.

### Behavior Plan

Please check your child's agenda book daily to see how their day went. I have a traditional behavior chart that allows a fresh start on *green* each day. Students will be given a verbal warning before moving to *yellow* and then again to *red*. I don't anticipate many "red" days for my students. What students need to begin to understand is that pulling their card and notes home are consequences to their own actions and choices. I will communicate daily in the agenda books if there are any problems. If there is a consistent issue, we may need to meet to talk about other actions necessary to change behaviors. This meeting may include Mrs. Conner

Children will be able to earn **Brag Tags** each week for various things from meeting AR goals to being kind to someone. They are cute and fun, and students will be able to accumulate them

throughout the year and save them on a ring. They really seem to enjoy them. I have continued to create new ones as I see specific behaviors that I want to emphasize.

I plan to have a simple **prize box** that students will have limited opportunity to visit. It will be primarily used for an extra reward when goals are met. These goals include AR and basic math facts, as well as other possible milestones met through the year.

Another fun thing we do in our class is share **warm and fuzzies!** When the kids, as a group, show exceptional behavior, they can earn a colorful warm and fuzzy for our jar. Once our jar is full, then we will have a free time with games and puzzles or an extra recess.

## Reflection Books

I'm really excited about the *Reflection Books* this year. They may be a little challenging at first, but I hope they help the children develop the ability to do a self examination each day. I am certain this will be helpful as they head into the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The children will write or draw in them each day of the week, reflecting on their day. The only day that requires a signature of a parent is Friday. I'll be looking for the signatures the following Monday. I hope you read through what they write and that it encourages good discussion. I'd love your feedback as you look through it and talk with your child each week.

## School Mass



We attend school Mass as a community on Wednesday mornings at 8am. We also attend on holy days of obligation. In those weeks, we always go twice. Throughout their years at Christ the King Catholic School, we teach the children that we have our scheduled Mass time during the week, but that the Church recognizes Sunday Mass and special holy days as days that all Catholics are *obligated* to attend. As a staff we want them to see this as a way we thank and honor God, so it is also our blessing to participate fully. Working together to teach and practice that at home and school helps the children truly grow in faith and understanding of what The Church teaches us. You are always welcome to join us at all school Masses and sit with the class. Second graders sit with sixth grade buddies. You will be allowed to fit in with the whole group. (We'll make it work!) Students are not allowed to sit in a different part of the church with their own families. I'll let you know when it is our turn to host the Mass.

## Web Page



My web page is where I post my weekly newsletter. I put other useful information on it, such as the spelling/vocabulary list. My goal is to post study guides prior to tests in all subject areas. I'll do my best to keep it updated regularly so that it provides helpful information for both parents and students.

## Weekly Newsletter



Our weekly newsletter is meant to give you general information about our classroom happenings, from what we're studying in each subject and field trips we plan to attend, to sacramental prep information. I keep the newsletter posted on my web page. If you are unable to access the internet, please let me know and I can make a hard copy for you.

## Attendance



Our learning day starts immediately upon entering the classroom. Children quickly unpack and do seatwork that is very valuable to their learning. Please make every effort to get your children to school on time and ready to learn.

## Sacrament Prep



This is a big focus in our classroom as we prepare for the beautiful Sacrament of Reconciliation. While we do set aside a few weeks just to discuss and better understand confession, I take an approach that includes discussion and preparing throughout the year. Keep an eye on the newsletter for special dates and further information. I believe their First Confession will be in March.

I am offering something new this year to my parents. On our parent meeting night, I'll be loaning to each family a copy of the book, 7 Secrets of Confession. It is an easy read, but full of beautiful insight into this sacrament. My hope is that it will be of help for you as we work together to guide the children through this process. Just as attending Sunday and holy day Masses is necessary to teach children how to properly practice their faith, taking part in the Sacrament of Confession as the adults in their lives shows children how necessary it is as well. It has a scary element, but that goes away the more we understand it and attend.

## Service



Our second graders will be creating and sending birthday cards to elderly parishioners as their service to the community. This service project has made such a difference in the life of so many parishioners! It is amazing!

## Agendas and Homework Folders



Your child will be writing their homework assignments in their agenda books, daily. **Please check it and sign or initial every day**, after your child has completed their homework. The home folder also needs to be checked daily. This will have any worksheets and notes sent during the week. You may also send things back to school in that folder. Just make sure your child knows to turn in anything you put into it. I stamp or star in their agendas next to the parent initial spot. That shows that I made sure they wrote in their agendas and will hopefully remind students to have their parents sign.

## Friday Folder



Keep an eye out for Friday folders. I plan to send completed and graded work home in them. This work can stay home unless otherwise instructed. There may also be notes inside for you, so please look every week. I want to be sure that parents are seeing student work. Please be sure to send the folder back on Monday. There may be Fridays that you do not see the folder. I won't send it any other day, unless the week ends on a different day, so plan on seeing it the following week.

## Homework



I am ok with parent and/or older sibling help with homework. It is good, however, to encourage independence, so I will tell my students that I want them to do their work on their own first, as much as possible. They are allowed to have someone check it over and they can make corrections as necessary. This is a great one-on-one tutoring time. I discourage help that simply gives correct answers. Some of their homework will be studying for tests or working on flashcards, so help with those things is great! My expectation is that homework is a priority and that the children complete it daily. Missing homework may result in working on it during recess or a double up of homework the next day and missing points.

## Reading



Students participate in the Accelerated Reader (AR) program. Goals are set by our librarian, Mrs. Dennett, and students are responsible for those goals each quarter. I recommend at least 20 minutes of reading each day to remain on track. Keep your eye out for their AR test results, which include where they are in that goal. I will also be sending home a reading log to keep track of their reading. This will be mandatory when assigned for homework.

## Math



We love Math in Second Grade. We reinforce basic facts which are very important as they move up through the years. I encourage practicing addition and subtraction facts at home throughout the school year using XtraMath. This is a great way for us to partner and keep up with the progress of each student. Each returning student has a login and our new CTK Cougars will be given one early in the year. When assigned for homework, it is mandatory, and the daily XtraMath report is checked the following morning. I'll be giving timed tests and flash card drills, as well.

## Specials



Monday- Atrium, Art ("A" week), Buddies ("B" week)

Tuesday- PE, Spanish

Wednesday- Mass, Computer, Library

Thursday- PE

Friday - Music, Harmony

## Snacks



Students work better with full stomachs so we don't miss morning snack in second grade. I am excited to be participating in community snacks this year. If you are able to participate, just go to the sign-up-genius for our class.

## Water Bottles



Children are allowed to bring a water bottle to school, but we don't keep them at our desks. They will be accessible to kids during quiet work times.

## Lunch Money and Ordering

If you are sending money in for lunch, please put it in an envelope or baggie with your child's name and grade marked clearly on it. It goes directly to the office and not with them to the lunchroom. Also, your child needs to know what they are ordering for lunch in the morning for a proper lunch count. I trust their order. If they do not bring money for either hot lunch or milk, but order it, you'll receive a notice from the office of the balance so you can pay it. Families are encouraged to pre-pay lunches.



## Birthdays

We no longer allow edible birthday treats of any kind at school. We know that the children celebrate with food at home and with friends, so we felt that our special way of celebrating could be different. The school community makes a big fuss out of each child by announcing their name in the morning and then presenting a birthday crown. It's quite fun! In the classroom, I give a simple birthday gift to acknowledge their special day.

## Volunteers



All adults who volunteer in the school must be up to date on SET training. It is a diocesan policy. Keep watching the school's Friday Flash for information on ways to help in the school. I do not have a schedule for helpers in the classroom at the beginning of the year. I like to get settled first and then find the best places for assistance. **If you have an interest in volunteering, please don't hesitate to e-mail me.** It is wonderful to be part of such an awesome community!

## Field Trips



Drivers and chaperones for field trips are required to be up to date on SET training. All students are required to have a field trip form on file in the school office before going on any excursions. If you, as a parent, plan to drive on any field trips, the same form has a side for you to fill out as well. I will make sure that goes home so we can take care of that right away!



Teaching your children is a blessing, and I am excited to get to know each and every one of them. I appreciate your trust and support.

I am looking forward to a wonderful year!

Blessings,

Mrs. Kupitz