

Leap Day 2018 - Second Grade

Welcome Parents! We are delighted that you could join us. We appreciate all of you.

What to expect in 2nd grade:

Reading- Reading will consist of anthologies, basal readers, and self-selected books. Students are expected to read 20 minutes each night. They may read anything of interest to them including books, newspapers, magazines, etc. On Monday evenings, we encourage reading to be of a Religious nature, and on Thursdays we encourage non-fiction reading.

Spelling - A pre-test from the weekly unit will be given on Mondays. The students will complete nightly spelling assignments. The test on the weekly unit will occur on Fridays. Three to five dictation sentences will be on the test.

Math - We use Saxon Math. Students will have a practice page and a fact page to do each night. This page is similar to the lesson we have covered during the day.

Each night students are expected to practice math facts. You may use flash cards at home. Forty randomly selected flash cards a night is a great start. Better yet, go to allmath.com or Aplusmath.com. Your student will love these web sites and so will you! Please save your student frustration later and review the facts (addition and subtraction to begin). We will reach a point where the class cannot move on if they do not know their facts.

Science - The students are very excited about Science this year. We will be studying many things throughout the year. The main areas of study will be Scientific Inquiry and Reasoning, Life Science, Earth Science, Physical Science, and Space.

Social Studies - We will be going back in time to study Ancient India, China, and Greece, the beginnings of the Constitution, taking a look at our geography, and civil rights leaders. These are just a few of the areas we study in Second Grade. It is interesting for the students to study how the past is connected to the present and how it will affect the future.





Religion - This will be a wonderful year for your second grader. We have started off the year with great anticipation of what is about to unfold. It is critical that your student participates in the life of the Church and the liturgical seasons. Keep an eye out for moments in which you see your child living the faith through sacrifice, obedience, prayer, charity, and forgiveness.

We will begin preparation for the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion. You will see unique, detailed, hands-on activities and some tests. We are as excited about this spiritual journey as the children are and we will prepare them. We will be learning about The Mass, Prayer, The Sacraments, The Commandments, and so much more.

The students will have the opportunity to make the Sacrament of Reconciliation at our school. However, the bishop has requested that all students receive their First Holy Communion in their home parish. We will also have a special celebration for all second graders near the end of the year to honor this wonderful occasion in their lives.

Specials - The students will be busy in 2nd grade in many different areas that enrich the curriculum. The following is a list of our "specials".

P.E. twice a week with Coach Breaux

The Physical Education program that's designed for lower school students will be a program of individual and team activities that will focus on fitness, coordination, and character building. Through class activities and instructions students will be given the opportunity to learn how to stretch & warm-up, throw & catch, balance and coordination, and a variety of sports. This program is designed to develop an awareness and appreciation for activity and physical fitness through cardio, aerobics, and mini-games of fitness. We focus on character building by creating an environment that can showcase sportsmanship and team work.

Art once a week with Mrs. Thompson

Next year in 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade we will explore several different art techniques and learn about the artists that used them. For example we will create a chalk flower and learn about southwest artist Georgia O'Keefe.

Throughout the year we will explore collograph printing, use of pastels, clay, wax, collage, and glue painting to create self-portraits, mosaics, surreal clay figures, etc. The year will be fun and exciting as we try new things that will give us immeasurable artistic confidence.

Library once a week with Mr. Brassil

Elementary Reading Skills. Your child will enjoy reading in our Library program that is integrated with the well-known and praised Accelerated Reader (AR) Program. Elementary students visit the library weekly with the goal of selecting a quality book at or above their present reading level, and to check it out. In *Second Grade*, they will work on identifying the main idea and supporting details.

Music once a week with Mrs. Ward.

Having learned in *First Grade* about the lines and spaces of the treble clef, *Second Grade* students progress onto understanding the specific names of the lines and spaces. The elements of music, rhythm, melody and texture, are brought together as beginning recorder is introduced. The Recorder is an instrument, similar to a flute in sound and made of wood or plastic. It is often used in Music Education settings. The widely acclaimed and loved Recorder Karate method is used in *Second Grade* music classes.

Enrichment - The curriculum at The Highlands is very extensive. However, should you want to engage your student in enrichment at this level, the most appropriate way is through reading. Opportunities for extensions of lessons in all subjects can be found in books! Make the Library and/or the bookstore your closest ally. This will aid in the process of developing lifelong learners which is our ultimate goal. Reading simply for enjoyment and relaxation will aid your student in more ways than we can possibly list.

Organization and Responsibility - Heavy emphasis is placed on these two virtues. Developing independent workers is a goal that helps to promote lifelong learning skills and habits.

Assessments -

1. Math assessment - every five lessons
2. Spelling - Unit test every week
3. Language Arts - Weekly grammar test
4. Religion - Periodic quizzes and tests
5. Other subjects - End of unit tests or quizzes

Projects and Field Trips-

1. Dallas Symphony Field Trip- fall
2. All Saints Day Presentation- November 1
3. Postcards to the Planets- January
4. Living History Museum- February-April

5. Wax Museum Field Trip- Holy Week
6. Flat Stanley- ongoing throughout the school year

After School Care-The Highlands School Aftercare Program provides each child with the opportunity to develop a strong work ethic through allotted homework times, trying to instill independence in problem-solving and time management while still aiding the students as necessary to the best of the staff's abilities. In addition to this work ethic, the students are encouraged to socialize not only with their classmates but with children in other grades, extending their bonds and friendships to others with similar interests and enabling them to interact with various age groups in a comfortable, friendly environment. The students are able to interact both in centers—the games and other crafts the students may play each day—and in outdoor activities from tag to soccer to football, weather permitting. The Aftercare Program has daily prayers that often allow the students to voice their own prayer intentions and thus practice praying for those in need within the community. As a whole, the Aftercare Program is dedicated to the development of the students in its care: academically, socially, physically, and spiritually.

Questions? Contact us!

Mrs. Jackie Lamers: jlamers@thehighlandsschool.org

Ms. Tina Chaplin: cchaplin@thehighlandsschool.org