

Welcome to 2nd Grade!

MR. JEFF BUDIN – ROOM 1408
MS. RUTH KRIDER – ROOM 1405
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Approximate Daily Schedule

8:15 – 8:30 Breakfast2Go/Morning Work
8:35 – 9:25 Specialists (Science, Music, Phy.Ed.)
9:25 – 10:00 Morning Meeting/Skills
10:00 – 11:05 Math
11:05 – 11:25 Snack/Recess
11:25 – 12:25 Literacy/Skills
12:30 – 1:00 Lunch
1:05 – 1:25 XtraMath/ReadAloud
1:25 – 2:15 Literacy/Thematic
2:15 – 2:30 Recess
2:30 – 2:50 Planners/HW/Dismissal

This schedule, of course, is flexible, and may be “tweaked” to meet student needs throughout the year. Art and library times are TBD and will be communicated later.

Mondays: Spelling pre-test, spelling packet and Scholastic News goes home

Fridays: Spelling test; spelling packet and Scholastic News due

Weekly newsletters and Upcoming Dates will be posted on our website - http://stanthony.spps.org/2nd_Grade.html, as well as emailed to a parent list. If you need a paper copy, please let us know.

Other communication from the school/district will be sent home in the students’ mailboxes. Students are responsible for emptying out their mailbox daily and bringing the contents home to you in their home folders. Please help by asking your child every day!

Reader’s and Writer’s Workshops require an amount of autonomy on the student’s part that many 2nd graders may not be used to yet, so one of our first goals will be to learn routines, how to work independently and utilize other children’s strengths as resources. One part of Reader’s Workshop is to meet with a small group of students who are at a similar reading level. We call this “Book Groups.” If you would be able to volunteer to meet with a small group of students during our afternoon literacy time, please let me know.

Students will also participate in Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) each day, so will need an independent reading book in their bin. We will utilize our school library and the public library monthly to gain access to multiple sources of reading material. Each student has an active account to check out books using the digital LibraryGo card. You can go to spspl.org/go and click on the “For Students” button to get started. Staff at the library can also help. Students will need to know their barcode is **22091600 + 6 digit lunch number**.

PIN is the **student’s birthday** (MMDDYYYY). We’ll return the books at the next visit, unless you do so on family time – the public library DOES NOT institute fines on juvenile books checked out with a school group. They do, however, send out automated phone messages and emails. As long as the book is returned, there is no fine. We always love any adult company walking to and fro. Your family is responsible for books checked out on your child’s card.

Writer’s Workshop units include writing a LOT, and polishing such pieces as Expert Books, Small Moment Stories, Reviews, Realistic Fiction, Book Recommendations, Shared Research and Figurative Language/Poetry.

In 2nd grade **Everyday Math**, our team groups the students in order to try to provide an optimum learning experience for all. This will be different than what is familiar from first grade. A pre-test is administered to each student at the beginning of each unit of study. The team grades the assessments



in concert with one another, and groups the children according to their individual academic needs for that unit only. Then the students go to one of the teachers (Mr. Budin, Ms. Lee or Ms. Krider) for instruction in that unit. In this way, we are assured assessment is informing our instruction so each



student is receiving educational opportunities tailored to their needs – whether that be enrichment or extra support. At the end of each unit the student is offered the SAME test they were given at the beginning,

and they complete it a second time, showing and reflecting on their learning and growth in math. Then the same process of pre-testing, grouping, instructing, learning, showing and reflecting continues for each additional unit. This means your child may be gathered in diverse and different math groupings throughout the 12 units of math study in our year.

Morning Meeting is an important component of the Responsive Classroom curriculum that seeks to integrate empathy, listening, caring, community building, oral presentation skills and having fun together with our academic curriculum. We begin with greeting each other every day in a circle, move on to playing a brief game, then sharing, and lastly reading the news and announcements. Sharing tends to be very popular in 2nd grade, so we have a few guidelines: **first**, students must sign up “first come, first served” on the board; **second**, only three people can share per day unless there is an event of critical importance we need to know about; **third**, each individual can only share one time per week; **fourth**, sharing time is limited to one minute per person. Occasionally a student wishes to share a person or a pet. People are ALWAYS welcome, but photos of pets are a great choice.

Thematic and social studies topics this year will be focused around topics such as Rights and Responsibilities, Voting, the Constitution, Citizenship, Maps, Native American Cultures, States of Matter, Economics: wants/needs, money, saving, spending and resources. Our winter Second Grade Author Study is on Vera B. Williams – a prolific, talented author.

HOMWORK

Our policy in the St. Paul Public Schools indicate 10 minutes times the grade level of the student. Therefore, 20 minutes per night are the guidelines for 2nd grade, plus reading time. We give homework time at the end of each day, so please check the planner for any unfinished work that might need to be done at home.

A new organizational tool for your student is her/his **PLANNER!** Each day, students are responsible for writing the day’s homework and school activities. Families are encouraged and expected to ask to see the home folder + planner each day after school, discuss the assignment(s) and offer support.

Reading: Students will need to be reading a lot independently and talking about reading at home (we recommend using the 5 Ws as you discuss: Who, What, Where, When and Why/How are great starters to facilitate comprehension). 20 minutes per night are the minimum for a child to read whatever they choose. A Scholastic News magazine will come home on Monday, and will be due on or before Friday of that week. Word family spelling words should be studied and tests are on Fridays. Each child is responsible for the first 12 words on the list, then five more difficult words for students to challenge themselves with are provided. The more difficult words are pulled from vocabulary in Scholastic News, thematic or individualized learning. Other reading from Reader’s Workshop may rarely come home.

Math: HomeLinks will be given in the students’ math class **daily** and is due the next day.

Writing: Most writing is done in school, but of course we LOVE students to write any time, any where, so writing assignments will vary and will be communicated in the weekly newsletter.

If homework gets done early, we have a 2nd grade Saints Baseball Reading program as extra incentive to read, read, read! Each student will have an opportunity once per year to recommend a book – on stage – to peers and loved ones, and then to enjoy snacks with the entire grade level. **Celebration dates at 2:00 P.M.: Nov. 9, Jan. 11 and April 18.**



We will be having various field trips and celebrations throughout the year, and will be asking for volunteers to help with chaperoning, decorating and food. As you know, federal mandates require shared food needs to be pre-packaged, and the first five ingredients must NOT include sugar. **If your child would like to celebrate a birthday, we have a district policy that it not involve food in any way.** We are asking for a \$25.00 donation this year to help cover the costs of our field trips to the Ordway, the St. Paul Saints, and others. Your donation will also pay for the planners. Please make checks out to SAP with "2nd Grade" on the memo line.

Snack time will be provided every day; please send a healthy snack with your child. **Snacks are not provided at school.** This year we have almost four hours between start time and lunch, so we are encouraging each child to try our district's Breakfast2Go (B2G) program. It is FREE to EVERY student, regardless of lunch status, and will be available each day at 8:15. Students will be able to go to the cafeteria, punch in their number and then bring breakfast to our classroom. We provide a time to eat, clean up and have a great beginning to the day. Your child is not required to eat breakfast at school, but we urge them to try it. Students are considered tardy if they are not in the room ready to learn at 8:30. We have at least one student with severe food allergies – please know we are a **nut free** school! Please do not send a snack that contains nuts. Thank you.

If you need to reach us, email or a note is best.

We have a whole school New Building Celebration scheduled for **September 20**, at which time our school community will come together and enjoy the beautiful new building.

We are so lucky to have co-teachers this school year. Please see the following about Ms. Sally Mattison and Mr. Jordan Richardson and welcome them to SAP.

Hi, my name is Jordan Richardson and I am in the last year of the Master's of Education program for Early Childhood Education at the University of Minnesota. I actually also have a Bachelor's degree from the U of MN in Political Science. For the past two years, while taking courses towards the Master's degree, I worked at the University of Minnesota Child Development Center in the infant, toddler, and preschool classrooms. And I loved every minute of it! My own philosophy of education aligns closest to the Reggio Emilia model of child centric learning and also with a forest or nature school model. I believe that children learn best when the material is made personal for each individual child and their interests are intentionally integrated into the curriculum. I love music, art, podcasts, and anything related to Doctor Who, Harry Potter, and Star Trek.

From August 2014 to July 2015 I attended law school in Chicago at Chicago-Kent College of Law. I had a dream of being a judge; I dreamed of being the first blind Supreme Court justice. However, this was just a dream because I realized I didn't want to be an attorney. I acknowledged that my year prior to law school, where I worked with Minnesota Reading Corps in a PreK classroom at Earle Brown Elementary, was the happiest year of my life up to that point. Thus, I decided to go back to the University of Minnesota for a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education. I still love talking, thinking, and sarcastically joking about politics, though. I am also really into Dungeons & Dragons and have actually been creating a world in which to play and explore! D&D also provides to me three of my favorite moments in life: curiosity, silliness, and magic. These are three elements I hope to bring to the classroom this fall. I am very excited to engage with you and your children this fall. Live long and prosper.

Hello! My name is Sally Mattison, and I am so excited for the opportunity to work with you and your children this year. I am in the final year of the M.Ed. program at the University of Minnesota, pursuing dual licensure in early childhood and elementary education, after returning to school for a career switch from nonprofit social services. This year, my husband and I will have a second-grader as well; our son will be in a 2nd/3rd-grade classroom, and our daughter will be in fifth grade for her final year of elementary. In my spare time, I love to read and spend time with them, especially enjoying the outdoors through hiking, canoeing, camping,



mountain biking, trail running, rock climbing and more. Whenever I'm interacting with children, whether at home or through work/volunteer experiences, one of my favorite things is always their joy of discovery, their curiosity, and their ingenuity and creativity, and I cannot wait to be a part of your children's explorations on a daily basis. I look forward to getting to know each of you and your children this year.

I've been teaching 2nd grade for 15 years now, and it is always a delight to learn about each learner as a creative, caring individual. Please don't hesitate to contact me, and keep an eye on the 2nd grade website as it has upcoming dates and newsletters posted. It's going to be a great year! Thank you in advance for all your attention and care for your children and all of us at SAP.

Ms. Ruth Krider



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