

**Thomas J. Waters Fine Arts School
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Second Grade Syllabus

Welcome to Second Grade! As we embark on the 2019-20 school year we would like to give you a general overview of skills that will be covered. We have also included our policies and expectations for students. Please keep in mind that teaching is an organic process and as a consequence some of the content listed is subject to change. We are excited and look forward to working with you and your children this year.

Meet the Teachers

The second grade team works collaboratively in teaching the same curriculum across contents, planning all units of study together and supporting one another in serving the needs of all our students. We believe that children learn best when they feel engaged and have authentic experiences, and try to tailor our instruction the best we can to differentiate for the needs of all types of learning styles.

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Attendance

- All children should be lined up outside by 8:10am. Children will be allowed into the school building when the bell rings at 8:15am. If a child arrives after 8:25 am they will be marked as tardy on attendance rosters. Doors will be locked and they will need to enter through the main entrance.
- If a child is absent, please send a note/email to school so that the absence is marked as excused.

Safety

One of the goals at Waters School is that students are provided a safe environment to learn and grow in. As a consequence, we ask the following of parents, caregivers, and students alike:

- Children will only be released to people authorized on their emergency forms. We must receive written permission from parents beforehand in order to release any child to persons not

indicated on those forms.

- Please do not wait in the hallways or inside the building, this is a fire hazard as well as a safety hazard for students in the building.
- Children will not be allowed back inside the school building once school ends, unless they are enrolled in an after-school program. If re-entry is necessary, children and parents must go through the front office first.

Grading

The following are the equivalents used for the entire school.

100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
59 or below	F

*Water's school policy is to not give students a grade below a 59%. If a student does not attempt to complete an assignment, they will be given a score of 59%.

The following weights will be used to determine your child's final grade.

Summative Assessments- 35%
Formative Assessments- 25%
Classroom Activities- 20%
Homework- 10%
Class Participation-10%

Note: You can view your child's progress through the parent portal. If you need your child's student ID and pin in order to access their grades, then please ask the office, as we do not have access to this information.

Homework Policy

The purpose of homework is to reinforce what we have learned in class and to prepare children to become independent and responsible learners. If your child is unable to complete homework on time due to illness, family issues, etc, we ask that you please send a note with your child so that work can be excused and they have an opportunity to make it up. Lastly, homework should not take more than 30 minutes per night. If it is taking your child longer than this, please speak with your child's teacher.

Reading at Home

Perhaps no other simple act from a parent has as much impact on a child's success than reading. Please make it a routine to read with your child every day for 20 minutes. Encourage your child to read aloud to you, choosing books that are comfortable for them. A general rule of thumb, if a child is making more

than 5 mistakes per page, then that book most likely is not a “good fit book” Reading should be fun and pleasurable, not frustrating. Finding the right book for your child can make a huge difference not only in their reading success, but their attitude of how they feel about books.

Birthdays

It is school policy that children may not bring in food for birthday celebrations. If you would like to send in a non-edible treat such as pencils, stickers, erasers, that is fine. Please let your child’s teacher know in advance if you plan on sending in treats for your child’s special day. If you would like to read for your child’s birthday, we encourage you to send a message to your child’s homeroom teacher to coordinate.

Read Alouds

For student birthdays, parents are asked to come in on one day during the week and read a book of their choice to their child’s classroom for fifteen minutes. We call this mystery readers because it will be a “mystery” to the kids - it is so much fun for parents to surprise them the day of!

Recess

Children have twenty minutes of recess everyday. This is a time for children to relax and interact with one another outside the classroom, not to mention get in some fresh air and exercise. Please make sure that students are bundled up appropriately in cold weather as we do go outside in the winter. In addition, please label all articles of clothing with their name and room number! Hopefully this will help all those lost mittens find their owners.

List of Excluded Materials

The following is a list of materials that we ask students not to bring from home. We understand that children can feel very connected to items but we ask for your help and cooperation in regards to this as it can become a distraction. If these materials are found they can be taken from students and will only be returned to parents in person. In addition, if your child has a cell phone in their bag, please let us know. All phones must be collected at the start of the day and will be returned to the child at dismissal.

- * Toys
- * Video games/Consoles
- * Fidget Spinners

Supply Policy

Not all students have the same financial means as other students. By culling and sharing supplies we build a classroom community that shares and works together without calling attention to students that have less than others. For this reason, we ask that parents not spend the extra money to get a decorated folder or notebook for their children because there is likelihood that your child may not get the notebook you purchased for them. The students understand this policy, and it helps the teachers be

organized with materials. Thank you so much!

Essential Schedules

Our essential classes for this school year are:

- Drama
- Music
- Art
- 2 periods of gym class- Each class will have gym 2 times a week, in order for our students to have more physical activity throughout the week.

Subject Area Skills Covered in First Quarter

Reading: Making Predictions and connections, setting, making Inferences and drawing conclusions, selecting and reading good fit books, word study, vocabulary development

Writing: Personal Narratives: Small Moments, Realistic fiction adding detail and description to our stories, editing our finished work.

Grammar: Parts of speech, sentences (subject, predicate), capitalization, punctuation, weekly spelling practice.

Math: Adding and subtracting within 20, collecting and analyzing data, using strategies to solve problems.

Science: Solids and Liquids, identifying properties, materials, and building structures, Chicago River Study

Social Studies: What is a Community?, Continents and Oceans, Native American Studies

Listening/Speaking: Listen attentively, Listen for a purpose, Follow directions, Listen for details, Follow rules of conversation, Stay on topic when speaking, Use of eye contact to enhance oral presentations and engage the audience, Participate in classroom activities and discussions

We look forward to working with you this year!