

Dear Second Grade Families,

I hope that you all had wonderful summers filled with adventure, laughter, and relaxation! My summer was wonderful! I have spent quality time camping, exploring the outdoors, and soaking up the long lazy days of summer.

This school year is going to be amazing! I cannot wait to meet my new class! In second grade, we will discover a challenging and engaging new curriculum. During the first month of school, we will focus on learning how to be in second grade. We will get to know one another, create classroom expectations, and learn routines that will help everyone to be successful students and community members. I want my students to feel safe, respected, and encouraged to be life-long learners.

We will join together with Ms. Pierce's 2nd grade class for many learning activities throughout the year. We hope to foster a strong, dynamic second grade community. This year, Ms. Asia will guide our class in creating unique artwork, Mr. Clark will help build our appreciation for music and Ms. Maya will help us learn to move our bodies in fun and purposeful ways. Second grade is such a special year of growth where you will begin to see your young learners become independent thinkers, readers, writers, mathematicians, scientists, artists, and musicians.

We will dive right into reading and writing as a way to refresh what we already know. I will meet students at their level and gradually help them strengthen their skills. I will be teaching literacy using the Orton-Gillingham methodology, which utilizes a multisensory approach coupled with explicit direct instruction in order for students to develop a concrete understanding of language.

While there is a strong academic focus in second grade, we also place a great emphasis on developing a strong social-emotional well-being. Here at NCSA, we place a huge emphasis on our social-emotional curriculum. We use Positive Discipline and the Mindful Schools curriculum to support NCSA students in becoming their best selves. I believe that using mindfulness to be present, engaged, and aware of emotions and expectations will help ground our class and support a productive learning environment. We will hold class meetings, take class hikes, spend time in nature, and express ourselves respectfully and creatively in order to create a safe, nurturing, and loving learning environment for all. We will learn to be kindhearted, thoughtful humans that respect and love one another.

I look forward to an excellent year of growth! I know that we will have fun, learn, discover, work hard, and have a great year together!

Love,

Ms. Hayley Baumgartner (Ms. B)

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