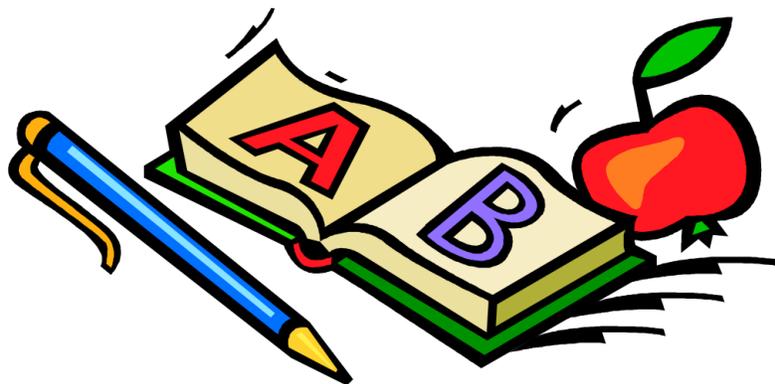


# Second Grade Handbook



Mrs. Axelsson's Class  
2015-2016

## Second Grade Handbook

The following packet will give you some basic information about the Second Grade curriculum and procedures.

### 1. NAME TAGS

Please make sure your child's name or initials are on everything he/she brings to school, including gym shoes, lunch boxes, jackets, etc.

### 2. TALKING TO THE TEACHER . . . WHEN

I believe that the connection between home and school is very important. When we work together as a team, the better school is for the child. Please feel free to contact me anytime you have a concern or question. I can be reached at 847-740-5321 ext. 4303 or [mrsaxelsson@bighollow.us](mailto:mrsaxelsson@bighollow.us) Email is the best way to reach me for quick questions. I'm also happy to meet with you before or after school. If I do not reply in a day, please re-send. My inbox gets pretty busy at times!

Information about our classroom is available at my website which is accessed through the district page: [www.bighollow.us](http://www.bighollow.us) Here, you can find information about weekly homework assignments, upcoming events, the weekly newsletter, and other information about our classroom. I like to send email blasts with reminders, as well. I use Remind for quick text reminders, too.

### 3. SNACK

Each day in the morning there will be a time set aside for a snack break. This snack will need to be provided by the parent. We don't eat lunch until 12:30, which is a long time to go without eating. Please send in **healthy snacks only**. Sugary snacks and junk food will not be allowed. Your child may choose to bring a water bottle, please no juice or soda.

### 4. BIRTHDAYS! BIRTHDAYS! BIRTHDAYS!

If you would like to celebrate your child's birthday, we can do this in two ways. You may either send in non-food items or a copy of your child's favorite book. We can pass out the items or read your child's favorite book at the end of the day. There is absolutely no obligation to donate a book to the classroom... I'm very happy to share your child's book with the class and send it home. Please send me a quick email letting me know how you would like to celebrate a day or so before his/her birthday.

**Please Note:** Edible birthday treats are no longer allowed due to dietary and allergy issues.

Summer birthdays can be celebrated in one of two ways. We can celebrate his/her half birthday, or we can pick a date in May for the celebration. Please let me know if you plan to celebrate a half birthday.

Invitations for birthday parties can only be passed out at school if everyone is getting one. All girls/all boys is also acceptable. This is a school rule and there are no exceptions. Feelings really get trampled when kids hand out invitations to only a few. The PTO address book is available to purchase for \$5 if you'd like to mail invitations.

## 5. RECESS

Lunch/recess is part of your child's day. Please dress your child appropriately according to the weather. This is especially important in the winter months. Winter coats, boots, hats, snow pants, and mittens are a necessity on cold snowy days. If your child doesn't want to wear snow pants to school please put them in their backpack as they will need them for recess. When it is slushy outside, please send an extra pair of socks, feet get wet on the way to school.

## 6. TOYS

I encourage student toys to remain at home for several reasons: distraction during instruction, possibility of breaking or being misplaced. If toys are brought to school, they will remain in your child's backpack/locker.

## 7. SPECIALS SCHEDULE

Special classes include Art, Music, P.E., Computer, and Library.

**JUST A REMINDER:** The children will need clean gym shoes for inside P.E. These are shoes that should be kept at school. Your child will also need a white t-shirt with their name written across the front to wear to specials.

Library books are selected weekly and taken home. Encourage responsibility. Returning them on time is a lifelong habit worth acquiring. Also, no new books can be taken out while there is still one outstanding.

## 8. HEALTH PROBLEMS

Please alert me in writing about any special health problems your child may have (hearing, glasses, preferential seating, hyperactivity, hypo activity, allergies, weak bladder, seizures, etc.). We need to give a copy to the office for their records.

## 9. MILK/LUNCH MONEY

Money can be added to the student's card online. This is done through the Skyward parent link. Milk/Lunch money may also be put in an envelope and marked with your

child's name and grade. It is collected in the cafeteria before the students come down to the classroom in the mornings.

#### 10. HOMEWORK

We do STAR homework, which consists of the core skills of reading, math facts, and spelling practice.

#### 11. JOURNAL WRITING

On many days, the children will be asked to express themselves through words and pictures in their journal notebook. Occasionally, journal entries will be shared with the class.

#### 12. DEVELOPMENTAL SPELLING (KID SPELLING)

During journal writing, kids' spelling is strongly stressed. Writing words "the way they sound" rather than the "exact spelling" is developmentally appropriate and is viewed by teachers as "okay." Day by day and week by week progress will begin to show in written expression, confidence, and pride. Grammar and punctuation learned will be incorporated into their writing. When creative writing stories are going to be displayed in the hall or made into books, the child will be asked to correct their rough draft (sloppy copy) and complete a final draft copy.

#### 13. WEEKLY SPELLING TESTS

We will be having weekly spelling tests on words related to our language arts program. A pretest will be taken on Monday and will not be graded. The purpose is to determine which words are the most difficult for the children and need to be studied the most. If the student passes the 12 basic words, they are invited to work on the challenge list for the week. A list of words will be sent home on Monday. Your child will be tested on these words on Friday. Please practice the words throughout the week.

#### 14. DAILY ORAL LANGUAGE (D.O.L.)

We will begin each writing lesson with D.O.L. This will be a short exercise where the students will learn about capitalization, punctuation, etc. On Monday a worksheet will be sent home with the sentences of the week to practice, and a corrected sheet so you may check their answers. There will be a D.O.L. test on Friday where the students will have to correct a few sentences similar to the practice sentences of the week.

## 15. PARENT VOLUNTEERS

If you would like to volunteer at our school, there are always jobs to be done. If you would like to volunteer to help the second grade team, please let me know.

## 16. CLASSROOM PARTIES

We will be having 2 parties during the year: Halloween and Valentine's Day. Parent volunteers will be in charge of coordinating and planning the holiday parties; let me know if you are interested. Communication between the volunteers and the teacher about the plans is very important! If you are unable to be a volunteer, but would like to help let me know. All are welcome to attend!

## 17. BOOK CLUB ORDERS

One of the special gifts we can offer a child is the love of good books and the joy of reading. Children who read at home can broaden their vocabulary, expand their imagination and ideas, and enhance overall language skills. Reading can also be a fun and inexpensive way to spend time with your child.

Through the Scholastic book club, your child has the opportunity to purchase inexpensive books chosen for the second grade level. If you wish to order through the book club, send your child a check made payable to the book club for the correct amount of the purchase with the order form.

**Please do not send cash!** Orders may also be submitted online using a credit card, check the website for more detailed instructions about ordering through the Scholastic website.

## 18. SUPER KID

Each week a student in our class will be featured as the 'Student of the Week.' He/She will bring home a poster on Friday to complete over the weekend and return to school on Monday. The poster will be displayed throughout the week and the child will be provided with an opportunity to share it with the class. As a special treat the 'Student of the Week' will be able to choose one day during the week to bring in a Show and Tell item.

## 19. BIG HOLLOW POST OFFICE

You may write notes and letters to your children and send them through the Big Hollow mail system. They need to be addressed with your child's name and our classroom address:

Your child's name

J106 Integrity Boulevard

Big Hollow, Illinois 60041