

STEM SCHOOL HIGHLANDS RANCH SECOND GRADE QUICK START PARENT GUIDE

Mission

Never Stop Innovating

Vision

We envision a world of exponential possibilities where every child develops the innate knowledge, skills, creativity and character to thrive, lead and succeed in an ever-changing future.

Formula for Character

Honesty, Integrity, Empathy, Respect, Responsibility

Second Grade Team

Mrs. Brook, Mrs. Logue, Ms. Slater, and Ms. Wilkerson

Daily Schedule

The second grade classes start at 7:40am with morning announcements followed by the Classroom Meeting/Community Time. Students arriving after 7:40 are marked tardy.

7:30am-7:40am	Soft Start
7:40am-8:00am	Classroom Meeting/Community Time
8:00am - 9:10am	Math
9:15am-9:30am	Recess
9:30am-11:20am	Language Arts/Social Studies
11:40-12:05	Lunch & Recess
12:15-1:00	Specials
1:00-2:25	Science/Engineering
2:35	Dismissal

Instructional Assistants

STEM School Highlands Ranch is proud to provide a full time instructional aide that is dedicated to 2nd grade. The instructional assistant provides additional support for both students and their teachers each and every day. Instructional assistants work either in

small groups or one-on-one to offer support as needed. Our assistants are extremely valued and we expect that they are respected as any other adult on campus.

Clothing

Other than the standard dress code for STEM, there are some broader suggestions for school clothing for your Second Grade student. The playground is equipped with monkey bars, rock wall, climbing ladders and slides all on a mulch area surrounded by black top and artificial turf. Although there is no requirement for closed toed shoes in the dress code, it may not be safe for students to wear flip flop sandals or open toed shoes while enjoying the playground and its equipment. It will be to the discretion of the aides, instructional assistants or teachers on recess duty as to whether or not your students' clothing or footwear could be a potential threat to their safety on the equipment. Also, please make sure that your student has appropriate outerwear for the day's weather. During winter months, warm coats, gloves, hats and boots will be necessary to enjoy their recesses outdoors. When there is snow on the ground, students will not be allowed to walk in snowy areas without wearing snow boots.

Supplies Required

In the fall, prior to the beginning of the school year, parents will receive a school supply list. Additional items needed are: backpack, water bottle, comfortable shoes, as the students do go outside for both morning snack and lunch recess.

Water Bottles (Students are required to bring a water bottle daily during Covid)

We encourage students to carry water in leak proof bottles in order to stay hydrated. All water bottles should be clearly labeled with the student's name.

Lunch

Your student may bring a packed lunch from home or choose to have a hot lunch provided by Douglas County Nutrition Services. Please make sure your child has an appropriate amount of food to be consumed in the allotted time for lunch, as well as any and all utensils your student will need to consume their lunch, ie., spoons, forks, and/or napkins. Students may bring food to be warmed up in the microwaves by an aide or instructional assistant. They are also available to assist your student with opening their lunch items. Please keep in mind, there are likely 100 second grade students dining in the cafeteria and the lunch period lasts approximately 20 minutes. Water, eating utensils, napkins and condiments are available in the cafeteria for students. If your student needs assistance with heating up food, opening lunch items and getting utensils, etc., it greatly cuts into the time they are allotted for consuming their lunch. Please keep this in mind when packing your students lunch. Emphasis should be made

in getting your student to be able to independently open lunch boxes, plastic food containers, straws, plastic and foil packaging/shrink wrap etc..

Lunch Numbers

When ordering a hot lunch from Nutrition Services, your student will be required to enter a six digit “lunch number” into a typical 10-key number pad. This “lunch number” is in fact your students DCSD (Douglas County School District) student ID number. This number will follow your student to any school they attend within DCSD. Instructional assistants and aides are also available to assist your student with entering their lunch numbers, however emphasis should be made to have your student be able to complete this task independently in time.

Snacks

Students will have the opportunity to enjoy one (1) snack per day at their designated snack recess in the morning. It is encouraged that you send your student with a snack daily and that it be nutritional in value. It is very hard to concentrate and learn at school when the student is hungry. If your student will be enjoying a hot lunch from Nutritional Services, you should still send your student in with a nutritional snack for the day. Emphasis from both teachers and instructional assistants, will be put on eating snacks first and then playing when done. Snacks may not be shared between students due to possible food allergies.

Use of Technology

Technology will be utilized in the classroom on a daily basis. Various technologies will be used by your student over many subjects including math, literacy, science and engineering, with the assistance of the classroom teacher and instructional assistant. It will also be used to facilitate independent and small group activities or lessons throughout the day. Students will be instructed on proper use and care of our school technology resources. Basic understanding of using any technical applications and navigating websites will help your student in using technology in the classroom and getting the most of this valuable classroom [resource](#).

Literacy Rotations

Every day students will take part in literacy rotations and guided reading (centers). They will vary from time to time usually consisting of a teacher assisted center and two to three independent or student driven centers. At these centers students will engage in applications such as Vocabulary A-Z, iReady, RazKids, Flocabulary, and Typing.com.

Math Rotations

Students are assessed on many standards of mathematics at the beginning of the year. Through this assessment, we are able to analyze where they are mathematically and rotate between all four-second grade teachers and a third-grade teacher that focuses on where they are. This helps students be challenged at a place that best meets their needs. One will be lesson/skill-driven and instructed by the classroom teacher. The students will also have a center where they will complete a worksheet reinforcing the skills taught by the classroom teacher. The instructional assistant will be available to interact with students in each of these centers. Lastly, students will have independent centers where they will work individually or in small groups on a skill based task or game further reinforcing math skills. Examples of technology used are applications such as Zearn, XtraMath, and Prodigy.

Math Second Grade Standards

Number Sense, Properties, and Operations

The whole number system describes place value relationships through 1,000 and forms the foundation for efficient algorithms. Formulate, represent, and use strategies to add and subtract within 100 with flexibility, accuracy, and efficiency.

Patterns, Functions, and Algebraic Structures

Expectations for this standard are integrated into the other standards at this grade level. Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability

Visual displays of data can be constructed in a variety of formats to solve problems.

Shape, Dimension, and Geometric Relationships

Shapes can be described by their attributes and used to represent part/whole relationships. Some attributes of objects are measurable and can be quantified using different tools.

Writing

Each day, students will write in their writing journal on a current or relevant topic assigned by the Teacher. Students will develop skills throughout the year reinforcing basic letter writing, full sentences using upper and lowercase letters appropriately, proper word usage, and necessary punctuation skills. Students will learn several styles of writing including informative, how-to, and persuasive.

Language Arts

Oral Expression and Listening

Discussions contribute and expand on the ideas of self and others. New information can be learned and better dialogue created by listening actively.

Reading for All Purposes

Fluent reading depends on specific skills and approaches to understanding strategies when reading literary text. Fluent reading depends on specific skills and approaches to understanding strategies when reading informational text. Decoding words with accuracy depends on knowledge of complex spelling patterns and morphology.

Writing and Composition

Exploring the writing process helps to plan and draft a variety of literary genres. Exploring the writing process helps to plan and draft a variety of simple informational texts. Appropriate spelling, capitalization, grammar, and punctuation are used and applied when writing.

Research and Reasoning

Reference materials help us locate information and answer questions. Questions are essential to analyze and evaluate the quality of thinking.

Science and Engineering

Students will have science and engineering time each day. Learning will be done in many different ways including whole group instruction as well as small group or individual projects. Students are taught basic scientific methods and will plan out and construct various engineering challenges. Students will learn about the weather, plants, motion and forces, animals and life cycles, and protecting our planet, to name a few. Every student will be given the opportunity throughout the year to present individual science experiments to the class.

Social Studies

History

Your child will be writing a biography of a famous person in history and participating in an interactive history museum. Identify historical sources and utilize the tools of a historian. People in the past influenced the history of neighborhoods and communities.

Geography

Use geographic terms and tools to describe space and place. People in communities manage, modify, and depend on their environment.

Economics

The scarcity of resources affects the choices of individuals and communities. Apply decision-making processes to financial decision making.

Civics

Responsible community members advocate for their ideas. People use multiple ways to resolve conflicts or differences. Social Studies topics vary from understanding communities to understanding emotions. Students are usually given instruction in a

whole group setting with opportunities to break out into small groups for role playing and/or collaboration.

Specials Rotations

Students at STEM are given the opportunity to engage in learning Music, Art, Physical Education and Chinese language and culture. The Specials classes rotate every 2 weeks.

Field Trips (All field trips are on hold)

Second Grade classes will have at least 4-5 off site field trips in a school year. Field trips are a great hands on learning experience for your student. This provides some of the best school memories and gives students the opportunity to explore and reinforce lessons outside of the classroom. Your second grade student will get a special T-shirt for these class field trips. They will be uniform in color and will include the STEM logo along with students and Teachers personalized signatures printed on them. Wearing matching shirts as a class helps to keep everyone safe (easily identifiable) and is also a handsome keepsake of their second grade experience. Students will be provided bus transportation to/from these trips. Parents will have an opportunity to sign up as a volunteer for field trips. Teachers will create an online sign up and volunteers will be chosen on a first come first serve basis. Students will be required to bring their own disposable sack lunch and a disposable water bottle.

Birthday Celebrations

We love to celebrate your student's birthday with the whole class. With advance notice to the classroom Teacher, you may bring in an edible treat or goodie bag to share with the class; however, this is not a requirement. If so, please check beforehand in case allergies in the classroom.

Homework

Students will have a "Reading Response Journal." Read at least 20 minutes each night (book from school or home, or using Raz Kids or Read Theory). At least once per week students should write a response of their choice in their journal. Once a week students will participate in a weekly writing prompt as well. Math homework will be assigned by their math teacher.

Volunteering (This is to be determined based on 2021-2022 COVID School policy)

Volunteering in the classroom is a great way to help the Teacher and to be involved and informed of what your student is learning in the classroom. There are limited

opportunities to volunteer in the classroom, so please remember to allow other parents to sign up for volunteer opportunities as well.

Second Grade Spartans!

Yes we are!

We are looking forward to a great year with you.