

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
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PREPARING FOR SCHOOL

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. Please write your student's name on all jackets, gloves, hats, and other clothing items that your student may take off during the school day.

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 must carry water in leak proof bottles in order to stay hydrated. All water bottles need to be clearly labeled in order to stay out of the ever-growing Lost and Found.

Lunch

Your student may bring a packed lunch from home or choose to have a hot lunch provided by Douglas County Nutrition Services. School lunch includes a fruit, vegetable, main dish, and milk. 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. 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, food containers, and beverages. Please write your child's name on tupperware, lunchbox, and other reusable items.

Lunch Numbers

Each student is assigned a DCSD identification number that stays with them throughout their DCSD career. This number is used at lunch time to access their lunch account funds and must be memorized to keep the lunch line moving at a steady pace. 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

Snack breaks are included throughout the day. Please plan on only sending 1-2 healthy snacks with your student each day. Please do not send snacks with peanuts in case of allergies.

Recess

Students have this free time to talk with their friends and play on the elementary playground. All students are expected to have weather appropriate clothing as we only stay inside for recess if the weather is unusually harsh.

ACADEMICS

Specials Rotations

Students at STEM are given the opportunity to engage in learning Music, Art, Physical Education, and Computer Information and Technology. These special classes will be on a rotating schedule.

Problem Based Learning Units

At STEM, our students work in groups to investigate real world problems. They receive direct instruction on state standards to guide them throughout the problem solving process. These units are slightly modified every year. Students may investigate:

- How impacts caused by wind and water (mudslides, erosion, flooding) may impact people that live in certain areas
- Why not everyone has access to drinkable water and how to take action
- Challenges with reading higher level texts that contain more information than we need
- Problems that arise in our classroom such as missing supplies, peer conflict, and communication challenges
- Ways to strengthen our Highlands Ranch community

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.

Field Trips

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. 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.

Typical Field trips:

- The Highlands Ranch Mansion
- Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
- Butterfly Pavilion
- Lone Tree Arts Center

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.

OTHER

Instructional Assistants

STEM School Highlands Ranch is proud to provide a full time instructional aide that is dedicated to our grade level. 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.

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 a store-bought, edible treat or goodie bag to share with the class; however, this is not a requirement. Please check beforehand in case of allergies in the classroom.

Phones and iPods

Students may not use phones during the school day. We ask that any and all communication from the parent or student go through the teacher and the school phones. If there is an emergency, illness, or other need to call home, the office will communicate directly with parent/guardian(s). Elementary students will not be allowed to use their phones/ipods at any time during the school day, including during clubs and after school activities/driveline, and should leave these devices at home. It is important that every STEM Spartan elementary student meets this expectation in order to avoid a domino effect of phone use.

Student Emails

Each student has an email address first.last@s.stemk12.org. This email address should be used for educational purposes only (communicating about group work, emailing a teacher, receiving student newsletters, etc.). Students should not be using this email address for personal communication or to communicate to parent/guardian(s) during the school day.

Students are expected to use appropriate language and email etiquette when sending emails within the STEM network. This email address will be used to log in to Google Drive, school subscriptions, and other educational websites. This email should not be used to sign up for other, non-academic subscriptions.

Library

The STEM library consists of white book shelves around the elementary hallways with books divided by age appropriate reading levels. This system ensures books are readily available for students to use and place in baskets when they are done. Individual classrooms also have a collection of books for students to use and return when done.

Volunteering

Volunteering in the classroom is a great way to help the teacher and be involved and informed of what your student is learning in the classroom. If interested, please reach out to your child's teacher for more information.

Second Grade Spartans!

Yes we are!

We are looking forward to a great year with you.