

2nd Grade *Parent Handbook*

Ms. McAllister

1 *About Your Teacher*

2 **What Are We Learning?**

3 **Homework & Technology**

4 **Our Schedule**

5 **40 Book Challenge**

6 **Whole Brain Teaching**

7 **Super Improver**



Hello!

Welcome to second Grade!! I am Mairead McAllister and I will be your child's teacher this year! I am so excited for this year! We will be learning so much and will be having lots of fun while doing so! I can't wait to see your child learn and grow over the course of the year.



A little about me....

- This will be my 10th year teaching
- I have been at SJE teaching 2nd Grade for 6 years

My Education...

- Bachelor's of Science in Elementary Education, Liberal, Arts, & Technology from Stevenson University
- Master of Arts in Leadership in Teaching: Literacy Specialist/Coach from Notre Dame of Maryland University

Communication is so important to me and is so essential to a successful year! If you ever need to contact me, please don't hesitate. Here are some ways that you can contact me:

Email: mmcallister@stjohnschoolg.v.org

School Phone: (410) 592-9585

Website: <http://msmcallister.weebly.com/>

Go Back

Next Page



About Your Teacher

Know what's
happening!

EVERY
FRIDAY

I absolutely LOVE letting you know what is going on in the classroom! Starting next week, I will update my classroom website with information about what we are learning every Friday. My website will let you know EVERYTHING that we are doing in class, what days we have specials (Music, Spanish, Computer, Art, P.E.), reminders, special events going on in our classroom, and things going on at school. Make sure to check the website regularly. I will also be using Google Classroom to post assignments and keep families updated on what we are learning.

If you come across any information that is hard to understand or that you have a question about, please don't hesitate to let me know.

<http://msmcallister.weebly.com/>

Go Back

Next Page

2 **What Are We Learning?**

Universal Star Homework Model - No Tears!

- Flexible scheduling & student choice
- Most assignments are due on Friday
- Check and initial STAR chart every night - checked daily & collected on Friday
 - Nightly Language Arts and Math skill review
 - Still figuring out exactly what homework will be
- Will be using a combination of print and digital resources

Homework Assignments Typically consist of:

- Spelling Practice
 - Phonics & Grammar Practice (4 questions)
- Read 10-20 minutes (gradually build stamina)
- Math Facts Practice (XtraMath or flash cards)
 - Math Skills Practice (worksheet or website)
 - Text Evidence (builds comprehension skills)
 - Fluency Practice

Assessment/ Goal Binders:

- Sent home bi-weekly with any paper based assessments
- Please keep all work in the folders so it becomes a portfolio
- Please review papers, sign parent log, and return folder to school on Monday

Technology: We will be using both Google Classroom and Seesaw this year. Students attending school in person will be assigned an iPad or a surface tablet for their use during class.

[Go Back](#)

[Next Page](#)

3 Homework & Technology

Daily Schedule

[Click here for a copy of our daily schedule](#)
[\(a copy is also posted on my website\)](#)

Arrival: Whether in person or virtual the school day will start at 8:15am. If you arrive after 8:15am, students will be marked late. Virtual learners need to be present, prepared, and on time for all classes

Dismissal: We will be walking students to their cars this year. To protect everyone's safety please remain in your car. Families will be receiving a name card from the office to post in their passenger side window to assist teachers in identifying cars. Please send me an email if there's a change in who is picking-up your child and make sure they have your child's last name posted.

Absences: Throughout the year, there will be times that your child may get sick, need to go to the doctors, etc. If your child is absent from school please make sure to contact the office at (410) 592-9585 or send an email regarding his or her absence.

SPECIALS SCHEDULE

Monday	Music
Tuesday	Computer
Wednesday	Gym
Thursday	Art
Friday	Spanish

[Go Back](#)

[Next Page](#)

In second grade we read a lot! I am challenging all second graders to compete in the 40 book challenge this year. The 40 book challenge is a way to get readers interested in and exposed to a variety of literature.

Please help your child locate texts in the various genres and complete their recording sheets/log. If you need help locating books please let me know. Your local library is a great resource. The recording sheet/book log will be due at the end of the year and your child will receive a certificate and a prize for completing their reading goal.

Most of the books for the 40 book challenge should be books your child can read independently but it is okay if you help and read to them sometimes. It is my goal to encourage your child to read as many books as they can. It is all right if they don't finish all 40 books, we will celebrate however many books they do finish. Books they will read for Accelerated Reader and book reports are included in the challenge :)

Happy Reading!

[Go Back](#)

[Next Page](#)

5

40 Book Challenge

© A Spoonful of Learning

Whole Brain Teaching

As the year progresses, you may notice that our classroom doesn't always run like other classrooms. We will be learning through Whole Brain Teaching -a research based system that utilizes all areas of the brain, keeps children engaged throughout their lessons, and helps them retain much more information than the standard lecture- discussion model.

Whole Brain Teaching is a highly interactive form of instruction that delivers information to students in short "chunks." Kids then teach what they have just learned to their partners, using hand-gestures to help remember specific vocabulary. While students teach each other, the teacher walks around the room to discover who understands the lesson and who needs more instruction.

5 Classroom Rules:

1. Follow directions quickly
2. Raise your hand before you speak
3. Raise your hand for permission to leave your seat
4. Make smart choices
5. Keep your dear teammates/
learning community happy



[Go Back](#)

[Next Page](#)

6

Whole Brain Teaching

Super Improver

The Super Improver wall is my primary classroom management tool aside from PBIS and gold slips. We will be working on improving individual goals from academic, behavior to manners! I

am a firm believer in this highly successful individual motivator. When your child moves up on the Super Improver Wall, he/she will bring home a glorious certificate showing their achievement. Celebrate with them! I look forward to all the growth we will see this school year!

∞ Peregrine Falcon

40	Gold Hawk
40	Silver Hawk
40	Bronze Hawk
20	Red Hawk
20	Black Marlin
20	Cheetah
10	Tiger
10	Wolf
10	Panda
5	Kangaroo
5	Penguin
5	Turtle

Character Education 5 Classroom Virtues:



[Go Back](#)

7

Super Improver