

Reading

- **Dolch Words** – As a teacher trying to best serve your 2nd grader, I use several frames of reference to guide instruction. One of those tools is the list of Dolch Words. There are two lists of these sight words which are words that will help your child become a good reader. Research shows that the lists of Dolch Words make up 75% of all words used in first grade reading books, and 65% of all other primary books. Knowing these words is mandatory for your child to become a successful reader. All students in class will be tested on Dolch I and Dolch II words lists. Students who have not mastered each of the words will be given a word ring of those words which were not recognized automatically. Please practice these words rings several times a day until they are mastered. If your child has more than 10 words not mastered, he/she is already behind peers and will need you to practice daily with them. We will retest in about two weeks. I have included a copy of these lists for you in case you want to check your child's progress on the whole list of words.
- **STAR Reading Test** – This is a computerized reading comprehension test which will identify your child's reading level for instruction as well as for Accelerated Reading (AR). This test will be used in conjunction with other references to guide instruction to provide individual reading goals.
- **IRI (Individual Reading Inventory)** – This is a very accurate portrayal of where your child is reading. This test provides me with word recognition, comprehension, vocabulary, and overall reading ability. Mrs. Humphreys will assist me in administering this individual test.
- **Running Records** – Our guided reading program provides us with this form of assessment. This test will be conducted several times

throughout the year during reading groups. It allows me to analyze specific mistakes your child may be making to guide instruction to correct the mistake to make your 2nd grader a more successful reader. It will be used to move your child from one reading level to the next.

- **Accelerated Reader (AR)** - This is one more program we use as a supportive tool to your child's reading program. It is a computer comprehension check for their everyday reading. Students will receive a reading range that is hopefully broad enough to be comfortable yet challenging enough to provide growth. Students are encouraged to choose books in their range. They read a book, log on to the computer, and take a short 5 or 10 minute quiz on the book. Students who receive 80%-100% will receive points toward their reading goals. At the end of each 9 weeks those who have earned their goals will be able to participate in a celebration party! I will send home more information about their goals and ranges when we have those set for the 9 weeks.
- **AT HOME READING**- I really want to encourage you in the #1 thing you can do to help make your child a successful reader. **READ WITH THEM!** Read to them and have them read to you everyday! Make the Public Library a special place to go each week. Mrs. Kenyon and her staff are great and can help you have a successful time. Most books are AR books so can help to meet your child's AR goal.
- **Reading Grades** - Reading grades will consist mainly of 4 parts: **comprehension** (taken weekly from guided reading groups and AR reading), **participation** (daily-consists of being on time with material to reading group, attention during group, completion of assignments, and participation), **oral reading** (daily grade- below, on, or above grade level), - **BEAR (Be Excited About Reading) Reading** (weekly-consists of independent reading time; did student use their time to

read, did they read their book carefully, and did they remain on task reading.

Language Arts

- **Language Arts-** This grade will be a combination grade. A portion will come from basic grammar where we will be learning the basic parts of speech. Another portion will be identifying and learning synonyms, homonyms, antonyms, compound words, contractions, singular and plural nouns, etc. Students will be writing in their own personal journal daily and will receive a grade for an entry daily. We also will be writing many stories and responding to our reading in a variety of ways. Handwriting will be included in our Language Arts grade. Phonics will be a major portion of this grade. Students will receive two grades weekly from Phonics. One is the homework grade and the other will be the weekly Assessment. Be sure to go through your child's backpack every night. Most nights (Mon.-Thurs.) your child will have a short phonics paper to READ to you. We will complete all of the phonics in class. Seldom, unless your student gets behind, will your child need to complete the sheet at home. The only thing required is for you to listen as your child reads both sides of the paper to you. If he/she is struggling to read the words, please have them practice several times. Have your child explain the rule we focused on that day. (Reminder- at the very bottom of the homework side is a quick explanation in case they need help.) Initial at the top of the page and return to school.
- **Handwriting** – Neatness and correct letter formation is required to receive an S+ in handwriting. Weekly handwriting grades are taken specifically

from spelling tests, practice 3 times spelling, and overall writing throughout the week. Handwriting will be integrated into all subjects and taught one on one as needed.

Spelling

- **Spelling** –Spelling words come directly from our Saxon Phonics. I will use a variety of teacher created practice/handwriting sheets at school. We will also use a computer website (www.spellingcity.com) which can be accessed at home as well. Please review and practice words daily at home. Each Thursday, we will have a pre-test over the 20 regular words and 3 bonus words. If students do not use correct capitalization, the spelling word will be marked incorrect. Keep this in mind while you practice. Students earning 100% on both regular words and bonus words will NOT have to take the final test on Friday. Instead they will earn free time and will be allowed to bring a snack from home. Students who earn a 100% on regular words but miss bonus words will be required to take only the bonus word section on Friday, and then will have free time. Students missing any of the regular words will be required to take all spelling words on Friday. If students lose a list, I always provide extra which they are welcome to use as needed. You may also access the lists on my webpage at www.usd376.com under my name on Staff Directory.

Math

- **Everyday Math** is the series we use as well as integrating automatic recall of math facts. This curriculum is an application based program which

connects math to everyday life making it more beneficial and meaningful to the students. It also is a series that spirals learned concepts meaning, students will see the mastered concepts several times throughout the year so that students really learn that concept. Each unit will begin with a Family Letter that will provide you with an overview of the concepts we will cover. It also will provide you with homework answers. Starting in a couple of weeks, your child will have math homework. This homework will be a review of the concepts learned that day. Homework will be every night Monday thru Thursday and occasionally Fridays. Before tests, I will always send home a review practice which must be signed and returned the following day and will earn your child a bonus point toward their tests.

- **Math Facts-** One of the most important steps to become a successful math student is to know the basic facts for memory. It's kind of like knowing the sounds the vowels and consonants make in reading. Our school requires students to master addition and subtraction facts by the end of 2nd grade. Students are given a 100 fact test and must complete 80 or more in 5 minutes. We will have a fact test each Friday. Your student's goal will be to "beat" their previous score. While we will be doing a variety of activities at school to encourage your child's learning the facts, it is not always enough for some students. If you could practice with them at home, I would very much appreciate it. www.aaamath.com is a wonderful website where you can go to practice facts. Flashcards, dominoes, dice, and cards are all ways to practice facts as well, and I will be teaching your students how to use these tools. Students will be taught a variety of strategies to use to master their facts. Your child will be allowed to progress through the facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) at their pace.

Science

- **Science-** Students will participate in our Foss Science Program. Many hands-on activities and experiments will be performed throughout the year. We will combine this program with additional activities which will cover the standards necessary to ready your student for 3rd grade Science. Grades will be based on observation, completion of tasks, participation, and check-lists.
- **School Website** - If you have Internet at home you have access to our school's web pages. www.usd37.com is the web address. From there, click on the Grade School-then Staff Directory-cursor down to my name. On my homepage, you will find the school subjects and information. I try to provide appropriate game links which can be accessed at any time. On the spelling link, you will find our weekly spelling lists, in case you need an additional copy. You can also email me from the Staff Directory page if you have any questions or comments.
- **Finally-** I would like to let you know that we are fortunate to have Mrs. Humphreys working with both 2nd grade classrooms for reading and math. Mrs. Humphreys will serve as our classroom's Title I Instructor. In math, Mrs. Humphreys will serve students who need the most individualized instruction. In reading, for the first couple of weeks, Mrs. Humphreys will test your child using an Individual Reading Inventory and on Dolch Words. Afterwards, students will be placed in ability reading groups and will work either with myself or Mrs. Humphreys on a rotating basis. Students are moved into different ability groups as they progress and the groups are never permanent groups for the year. I want students to be challenged and pushed to reach their potential. Mrs.

Humphreys and I work very closely to monitor student performance through their strengths and weaknesses. We are very fortunate to have this opportunity and I greatly value Mrs. Humphreys' expertise as a teacher. I know your 2nd grader will enjoy her as much as I do.