

Top 20 Things to Know About Mrs. McKeel's 2nd Grade Class

Our Teacher

1. Your child is important and loved! Thanks for your support!
2. Mrs. McKeel graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a B.A. in Elementary Education. She did her student teaching at Forest View and has loved being on staff for the last 13 years!

Schedule

3. Students need to arrive in the classroom by 9:15am. If your child is at school after 9:15, then (s)he is marked tardy and must have a note from the office.
4. We start each day with a Morning Meeting from 9:15-9:30am. We greet one another, share compliments, sing songs and read poems, and share news from our lives. Mrs. McKeel also goes over what we are going to do each day.
5. Specials are everyday from 1-1:45pm and lunch is from 10:40-11:10am. You are welcome to join your child for lunch. Please make sure you sign in at the office.
6. Our specials are on a 6-day rotation. The rotation is: Technology (Monday), Music (Tuesday), PE (Wednesday), Science Lab (Thursday), Art (Friday), and Media or Guidance (X-Day). Your child needs to wear sneakers for PE on Wednesdays and bring his/her library books to return on X days. You can see which special we have each day on our class google calendar which is linked on our website.
7. Recess is every day from 12:25 - 12:55pm with the other 2nd grade classes.
8. Snack is at 1:50pm. KidBright USA will provide snack for our class. If you prefer to provide a snack for your child, please send a healthy one. Cookies, candy, and soda are **not** allowed.

9. There will be one joint birthday celebration a month as stipulated in the 2013 Durham Public Schools Wellness Policy. The parties will take place at 3:20pm on these days:

September 13	October 18	November 15	December 13	January 17
February 7	March 13	April 9	May 15	June 5

Academics

10. Literacy: Mrs. McKeel does a read aloud and a mini-lesson on a skill used by good readers and we practice it at the start of Literacy. We practice this skill during our independent or small group work, too. Our readers' response journals allow us to reflect on how we use strategies and skills during independent reading. We will begin small guided reading groups and literature circles in October with Mrs. McKeel and other teachers. During our independent reading time we get to choose a cozy spot to enjoy our books. We will also spend time working with peers at centers and on projects.
11. Writers' Workshop: We have opportunities to free write on self-selected topics and will also do projects using different genres of writing (narrative, informational, opinion, & poetry). We are learning the writing process this year and will practice brainstorming, planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. Sometimes we will get to use computers to publish!
12. Math: We are excited to use a new curriculum this year called Eureka Math. During Math we practice a skill as a whole class or solve problems and share our thinking using Math Talk. We also solve several different types of story problems. After our whole class activity we participate in small group and individual activities based on ongoing informal assessments. Many of the activities are hands-on, particularly math games or activities on the computers and Active Board.
13. Science: Durham Public Schools sends us a kit every few months for our four units. We get to do fun experiments, enjoy great books, and observe interesting creatures with these kits. We will study changes in properties of matter, sound, changes in weather, and animal life cycles. In addition to the

science kits, we usually hatch chicken eggs in the spring and will work with Mrs. Daly in the science lab during specials.

14. Social Studies: We examine our local community and changes among people and places over time. Students will also use timelines & maps and study the contributions of historical figures. We will examine government services and how consumers depend on producers within the community to provide goods and services. Social Studies is often integrated into the books we read in Literacy.

Homework and Grading

15. Reading Homework: Students are expected to read for at least 20 minutes each night. Students may read aloud, read in their head, or share a book with a family member or friend. Reading logs will go home on Fridays and will be turned in the following Friday. It is the student's responsibility to record his/her name, the date, and the title(s) read. Parents should only initial that the student completed his/her reading each night.
16. Math game nights: Several times during the year Mrs. McKeel will host a make & take math game night. You will be able to come to the classroom and learn some of the games we're playing in class and get supplies to play these games at home. Our first Math Game Night will be Tuesday, November 5 from 5-6pm.
17. Students will receive Falcon Reports the middle of each 9 weeks. At the end of each 9 weeks, students will receive a report card. They are assessed on a scale from 1 - 4. Assessment scale: 1 means the student does not meet the standard; 2 means the student partially meets the standard; 3 means the student meets the standard; and 4 means the student exceeds the standard.
18. Students will be assessed via informal assessments done by the teacher, observations, student work samples, DPS reading assessments, and DPS math tasks.

Organization and Communication

19. Friday Folders: Newsletters, graded student work, and other school papers will go home in a blue folder with your child each Friday. Please return the **empty** folder each following Monday (or the first day we return to school that week).
20. Please feel free to contact Mrs. McKeel at elizabeth.mckeel@dpsnc.net or 919.560.3932. E-mails sent during the school day may not be seen until the end of the day, so please communicate time-sensitive information by calling the front office. You can also visit our class website for class information and to sign up for a conference! The address is www.elizabethmckeel.weebly.com. To sign up for reminders via text or email, text @emckeel to 81010 to sign up for our class remind.com account.