



The
A B C's
of
Ms. Waritay's
Second Grade



A

Absences – If a student should miss school because of illness or a death in the immediate family, please send in a note excusing the absence upon the return of the student to school. You have five days after the absence for it to be considered excused. **An email excusing a child's absence may not be accepted.**

Students receive one day for every missed day to make up any work.

Agendas – This year your child will be using an agenda. This agenda will be used as a daily communicator between home and school. Students will write down important information such as homework, important events, reminders, and weekly sight words. Students will also record their daily behavior color. It is so important to check your child's agenda daily. Please initial or sign the agenda daily. This will let me know that you have seen the agenda.

AKS Academic Knowledge and Skills – This is Gwinnett County's Curriculum. This year the AKS is merging with the state Georgia Performance Standards Common Core. Each grade level has specific AKS that must be covered throughout the year. Please refer to your AKS Handbook; found in your Open House Packet, for the AKS your child will learn this year.

Announcements – Morning announcements begin at 8:10.

B

Birthdays – Students may bring a snack on their birthday to share with the class. We will celebrate during lunch. Be sure the snack sent in is an individual treat. Some examples of individual treats include cookies, cupcakes, brownies, donuts, or Little Debbie Snack cakes. You may also purchase ice cream from the cafeteria at a reduced price. We have 29 kids in our class for lunch.

Book Envelopes – This contains your child's daily reading homework. The Book Envelopes will begin coming home in the next week or two following Curriculum Night. Included in the STAR is a Book Log for you to record your child's reading progress nightly.

Book Orders – Each month I will be sending home Scholastic Book Orders. This is a great way to purchase books for your child. All orders are placed online through Scholastics website. Our class receives a \$3.00 gift certificate for each online order placed. If you wish to make a purchase, you may pay online or make a check payable to Scholastic. **NO CASH.**

C

Cafeteria – Mr. MinDarrel Jones is our Cafeteria Manager.
(678)344-5690

Checkout – If you need to check your child out of school, please include a note in his/her STAR with the approximate time you expect to pick him/her up. When I know in advance you will be picking your child up early, I can have his/her STAR, and all other items needed, ready to go home. When I don't know in advance, I have to stop teaching when the office calls down to my room and then scramble to grab everything your child needs before they go home. Thank you in advance for your help with making checkout smooth. Please note: Students will not be able to checkout after 2 p.m.

Class Parties – We will have two class parties. One party will be held in December and will be a winter themed party. The second party will be held in May. Our class room parent will contact you with more details.

Clinic – Mrs. Davenport is our school nurse.
(678) 344-3974

Common Core Curriculum – language arts and math higher level standards adopted by forty five states to align curriculum across states.

Comprehension – This is a key element in our reading development. Reading does not take place without comprehension, otherwise the child is simply word calling. Please take the time to discuss the texts your child is reading. I will include a book discussion guide in the STAR.

CQI – Continuous Quality Improvement is a program adapted to meet the needs of our students in math and language arts. CQI time is blocked off each day from 2:05-2:35. CQI is not used for grading purposes, but for enriching and remediating students over particular math concepts.

D **Daily 5** – The Daily 5 is a system of self directed activities used during our Reading time: Read to Self, Read to Someone, Listen to Reading, Word Work, and Work on Writing. Students will participate in these activities during the week.

Discipline Plan– Please refer to your child's STAR Notebook for the specifics regarding our classroom discipline plan.

E **Early Release** – Twice a year the students will be released from school early in order for Parent/Teacher Conferences to be held. Early Release dates are Wednesday, September 25 and Thursday, September 26. The second set of Early Release dates are Wednesday, February 26 and Thursday, February 27. Students will be released at 12:15.

Email Address for Ms. Waritay
maima_waritay@gwinnett.k12.ga.us

Email Procedures – Typically the best way to reach me is by email. If your email requires a response, please give me a minimum of 24 hours to reply.
Do not send messages to your child through email.

F **Field Trips** – TBA – Watch for information coming home at a later date.

Friday Folders – This year we will be using the STAR daily. It will take the place of a daily and Friday Folder. Therefore, we will not send home a Friday Folder. Students will be given grades in both conduct and work habits. Your child's conduct and work habits grade can be found in the front of their agenda. Please read over all handouts and information. Homework packets and weekly newsletters will also come home in the STAR.

Fry Sight Words – Each week we will be learning words from the Fry Sight Word List. Look for our weekly words in your child's agenda.

G

Going Home – It is very important that you send me a note when your child's plan for going home changes. If you are picking up your child or sending him home on a different bus, I must have a note that morning. Notes through email will not be accepted per Starling Elementary policy.

Go Portal – The Go Portal is designed as a tool for Parents to monitor their child's progress. Here you may find your child's grades, absence reports, as well as other valuable information. Please be sure to sign up for access to the Go Portal with our registrar.

Grading – In second grade we do A LOT of guided practice. If a paper comes home with a smiley face, star, checkmark, or sticker at the top of the page it was an assignment we completed for practice. If a paper comes home with a numeric grade accompanied by a letter grade then it is counted toward their overall grade and recorded in the grade book.

Grading Scale – Please note that the grading scale changes from first to second grade. You can see the change below.

First Grade.		Second Grade	
90-100	E	90-100	A
74-89	S	80-89	B
70-73	N	74-79	C
69 and below	U	70-73	D
		69 and below	U

Guided Reading – Small guided reading groups are used to individualize reading levels. This occurs after I have taught the procedures for working in our classroom and have had a chance to assess your child to find out which guided reading level he/she will begin on. I am still in the process of assessing each child's reading behavior and will begin reading groups soon after.

H

Homework – Monday–Thursday your child will have reading homework found in their Book Envelope. It is the student's responsibility to choose a book for reading homework. Sometimes I will be assigning specific books. In addition to their Book Envelope homework, students will have a homework packet. This packet will come home each **Monday** and due the following Friday. Please help your child develop the responsibility of completing his/her homework each night and returning it the following Friday. All homework should be completed **NEATLY** and in **PENCIL**, unless otherwise specified. You can **ENRICH** your child's homework in many ways. Feel free to help your child where needed, and add to or extend any assignment that is given for homework.

Homework Folder – In your child's STAR you will find a red homework folder. When your child has completed their homework packet or homework assignment, have them place their homework in this folder. This is a great way to help instill responsibility in your child. Please note that homework will not be removed from the folder until its due date which is typically Fridays.

I Ice Cream – Students may purchase ice cream on a daily basis. Please place your child's ice cream money in a zip lock baggie or envelope. Students are responsible for keeping up with their ice cream money. I will ask for ice cream orders each morning. Ice cream is \$1.00.

J Join P.T.A. – Our P.T.A. has been hard at work this summer and has many wonderful things planned. We really appreciate all they do for our school! Membership is \$5.00. We are striving for 100% PTA membership. Please help us meet this goal☺

Journals– This year will be doing a lot of journaling. Students use the following journals nearly every day: Math, Poetry/Word Work, Writer's Workshop, and Reader's Response. The journals are used to help the students organize their thinking and record their ideas in these core subjects.

K Keep – Be sure to keep this at your fingertips to help answer any questions about our classroom.

L Mrs. Ledford – Mrs. Ledford is the principal of Starling Elementary.
doma_ledford@gwinnett.k12.ga.us
(678) 344-6100

Lunch – The cost of lunch cost \$2.50 for students. It is easiest for our students to pay lunch money in advance (by the week or month) rather than bringing money on a daily basis. You may do this online at www.mealpay.com. Lunch menus for each week may be found on Starling's website.

Our lunch time is 12:26-12:46.

Lunch Visitors – If you plan to join your child for lunch, please meet us at the door outside the cafeteria. I also ask that you say good-bye to your child at the cafeteria as we make our way back to the classroom. This is a school-wide procedure. Thank you for helping make these transition times smooth.

School policy states you may only eat with your child. Other students may not join you. There are tables in the cafeteria set aside for visitors. We ask that you eat with your child at the designated tables.

Please note food from outside restaurants may not be brought into the cafeteria.

M

Making Number – Making Number is the number combinations put together to make a number. For example: $2+3=5$ is just one way to make the number 5. There are a total of 6 possible ways to make 5 using addition. We will work on Making Number through 20. Students need to know their addition and subtraction facts FLUENTLY through 20.

Math – We cover a large amount of concepts in math. Some concepts include time to five minutes, measurement, place value, problem solving, and graphing. Please refer to your AKS Handbook for all the specific concepts we will be covering.

Medication – Medications (prescription and non-prescription) must be taken directly to the clinic for safe keeping. The medication must be brought in by a parent or guardian only. Students are not allowed to bring medicine to school. ALL medications *must also be accompanied by a NOTE FROM THE PARENT.* (The note should include the following information: Full name of student, name of medication, time to be given, amount to be given, date(s) to be given.) Medications required for more than one day must be accompanied by an **Administration of Medication Request form**. This form can be picked up in the clinic or via website. ALL medications must be in the ORIGINAL CHILD-PROOF CONTAINER. Prescription medication must be in labeled *PRESCRIPTION BOTTLE with correct dosing information. MEDICATIONS STORED IN ENVELOPES, BAGGIES, ETC., Will NOT Be GIVEN.*

Mentor Sentences – Mentor sentences are sentences pulled from books read in our classroom. We use these sentences to provide models of how authors write wonderful stories, use descriptive language, provide strong leads, or persuade an audience. We will also use mentor sentences to study effective writing skills.

Morning Routines/Morning Work – Please know that while the tardy bell rings at 8:15, morning routines and morning work actually begin at 7:45. Students are expected to unpack their book bag, get a new book for their Book Envelope, turn in any notes or money, and complete their morning work by 8:15.

N

Newsletter – The Waritay's Weekly will be emailed weekly or bi-weekly on Fridays. Also will be found on class website

O

On Line Resources – The Starling Elementary webpage has links to different sites we find useful. Please refer to our web page for help in reading, math, and language arts.

One Hundredth Day of School – A monumental event in the life of a primary student is the 100th Day of School. We celebrate by doing many great math activities as we discover all the things we can do with the number 100.

Organization – A big part of second grade is developing good work habits that will hopefully last a lifetime. Organization is a key element in good work habits. We work on staying organized everyday.

P

Parent/Teacher Conferences – Parent/Teacher

Conferences are an opportunity for us to discuss your child's progress both socially and academically. Please refer to Early Release for the Parent/Teacher Conference dates. Additional conferences may be scheduled on an as needed basis.

Parent Volunteers – We couldn't do it without you! Look for more information coming home soon.

Poetry Notebook – Each week we learn one to two new poems, songs, or chants. We then place a copy of them in our Poetry Notebook. Using this notebook is such a key in reading development. It builds confidence, fluency, and helps practice numerous reading strategies.

Peanut Free Classroom – Please know we are a Peanut/Nut Free Classroom. Two of our classmates have life threatening allergies to peanut and nut products. Snacks should not contain peanuts or any nuts. Be sure to check your labels before sending a snack with your child.

Problem Solving – Problem solving is a key element in our daily math practice. This year we will focus on solving single step and multistep problems. Students need to demonstrate their math thinking by using pictures, numbers, and words. Students should be able to explain how they arrived at an answer.

PTA – Please be sure to join our PTA – president@starlingpta.org

Q

Questions ?? – Please feel free to email me any questions you may have.

R

Read Across America Day – Each year second grade participates in Read Across America Day. This national celebration is held on (or near) the birthday of the late Theodore Giesel, aka Dr. Seuss, March 2. It is a day we celebrate our love for reading by having guest readers, sharing our favorite books, authors, and characters, and participating in many fun Seussical activities.

Read to Your Child – You are a great model for your child. Everyone loves to be read to.

Reading Levels – Our guided reading assessment is based on the Fountas and Pinnell reading program. By the end of the school year your child is expected to be reading and comprehending on or above a Level M.

Reader's Workshop – Reader's Workshop is founded on the belief that the secret to becoming a good reader is to read a lot. Our teachers understand and believe that reading is a skill which requires practice. Just as a child learns to swim by swimming, children need to read in

order to get better as readers. There is a tremendous volume of research that shows a very strong correlation between the amounts of time spent reading and a child's progress as a reader. Reading instruction unfolds as teachers establish the conditions in which children learn to read, assess what the children can do, and then teach children to take one step and then subsequent steps forward as readers. During Reading Workshop, children learn from direct and explicit strategy instruction (mini-lessons), opportunities to read independently and in partnerships, small group-guided reading and strategy instruction, and from individual conferences.

Report Cards – Report cards are issued four times a year, every nine weeks.

Room Parent – Our room parent are Felicia Hale and Audrey Baptiste. Thank you so much for volunteering! They will be contacting you regarding help with class parties and other class activities.

S

Sight Words – Some words students cannot really sound out and must learn to read by recognition. We call these sight words.

Snack – We will have snack daily. Students are responsible for bringing their own snack. Students should only bring ONE snack each day. Please provide your child with a healthy snack. Students may also bring water if they like. Students may not bring juice, Kool-Aid, sports drinks, tea, or sodas.

Please know we are a Nut Free Classroom (except doughnut). Two of our classmates have life threatening allergies to peanut and nut products. Snacks should not contain any nuts. Be sure to check your labels before sending a snack with your child.

Specials – We have specials each day from 8:55–9:40. Be sure your child wears tennis shoes on our PE days. Please refer to the specials schedule in your child's STAR. We are on a 3 days rotation.

Social Studies/Science – Please refer to your AKS Handbook for the specific concepts covered in second grade.

STAR Notebooks – This year we are using STAR (Students Taking Academic Responsibility) Notebooks. It is a 3-ring binder that contains EVERYTHING the students and you, the parents, need to keep up with what is going on at school. No more wrinkled papers in the bottom of backpacks. No more lost notes, lost newsletters, or lost calendars. Everything is in one notebook! ☺

Why is it important to have? The STAR notebook helps students to establish good organizational skills which will benefit them throughout their school years. It also keeps the lines of communication open between the home and the school and strengthens our partnership in the education of your child.

Starling Elementary School

1725 Grayson Highway
Grayson, Georgia 30017
(678)344-6100
www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us/starlinges

fax: (678) 344-3296

T **Transportation** – Please be sure your child knows how they are getting home (or to daycare) everyday. If your child should have to change the way in which they go home, I must have this information in writing from you. We are unable to accept this information by email. Please put a note in your child's STAR addressing how they should go home. Thank you.

U **Unity** – My goal is to create a loving, friendly, and unified classroom.

Units of Study – Our writing program is the Units of Study for Primary Writing by Lucy Calkins. We will participate in a Writer's Workshop each day.

V **Valentine's Day** – We will exchange Valentine's on Valentine's Day. Please have your child make a Valentine (they can be the store bought cards or homemade) for every child in the class. Please also have your child decorate a shoebox, cereal box, or bring a gift bag from the Dollar Store to receive their Valentine's. **NO NUTS PLEASE!!!**

Visiting and Volunteers – I need your help to make this a great year for your child! I plan to use parent volunteers to help in the classroom in many different ways: working with small groups, teaching enrichment activities, making materials, chaperoning field trips, and helping with special activities. When you visit the school, always remember to sign in and out in the front office. There, you will be given a "Visitor" badge. If you are in the building without a visitor's badge, you will be asked to return to the office to get one. Please understand this is for the children's safety. While we love to have volunteers, we discourage parents from just dropping in for a visit, as this is very disruptive to instruction.

Vocabulary Word Wall – In our classroom we have created an interactive vocabulary wall to help our little learners expand and build upon their vocabulary. Students look and listen for interesting and/or unfamiliar words to add to our vocabulary wall.

W **Wish List** – wish list will be posted on the class website and added to the newsletter. Thank you for your support!!!

Ms. Waritay – Please feel free to contact me at anytime with questions or concerns. Please allow 24 hours for a response.
maima_waritay@gwinnett.k2.ga.us
(678) 344-6100

Website – our class website address: www.maimawaritay.weebly.com

Writer's Workshop – Writing is a huge part of our curriculum. We have Writer's Workshop every day.

Work Habits – An important part of second grade is developing positive work habits. We work really hard on this from putting our name on all of our papers, to keeping our desk neat, to keeping up with our materials. It is an on going process, but we set the stage for the rest of the educational career.

XYZ Mrs. Yochem – is your child’s counselor. She will be visiting our classroom for Classroom Guidance each nine weeks. In addition, she will offer small group counseling for those students with a need.

carol_yochem@gwinnett.k12.ga.us
(678)344-6100

Your Support – Thank you so much for your support. I could not do what I do without you.

