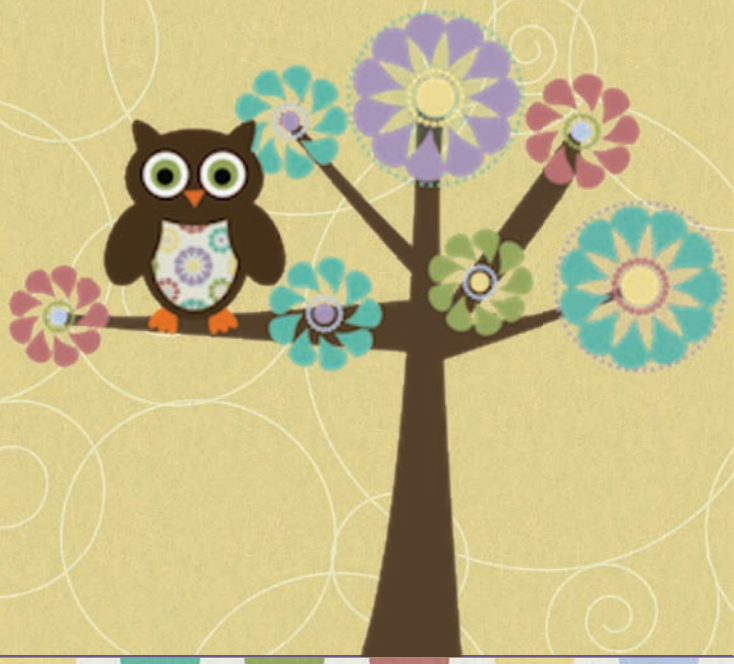
Second Grade Handbook 2017-2018



Mrs. Herman
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MEET Mrs. Herman

I am excited to be your child's second grade teacher this year! I am truly looking forward to a great year and am excited about working with all of you! Let's start by learning a little bit about me.

I was born in Chicago, IL. Eventually, I moved to Woodinville, WA, when I was young. That is where I grew up and attended grade school until my high school graduation in 2010!

After high school, I attended Western Washington University in Bellingham, WA. I graduated in 2015 with my degree in Elementary Education with additional endorsements in teaching Reading and English Language Learners. Soon after graduation, I moved to New Mexico and was hired as a second grade teacher at Pinon!

This is my third year of teaching. I completed one year of student teaching in a first grade classroom, and this will be my third year teaching second grade.

When I am not busy at school, I am at home with my dog and cat. This last summer I got married to my husband, Matthew, and changed my name from Ms. Ahlrep to Mrs. Herman! Additionally, I am a huge Seahawks fan! Go Hawks!

I look forward to getting to know each one of you!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Herman

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CLASSROOM SCHEDULE

Mornings:
-"Morning Work"
Morning Message/Classroom Meeting

Language Arts/Reading
- Daily reading lesson and workbook
- Daily 5 Reading centers
- Spelling/vocabulary practice and review

Math
- Group math lesson, review, and practice
- Math centers

Specials:
PE, Art, Library or Music

Lunch

Afternoons:
-Science or Social Studies or Computer Lab
-Handwriting
-Dismissal

*Please arrive on time – students WILL be marked tardy at 8:25am

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FUN STUFF

Birthdays:
If you would like to send in a treat to celebrate your child's birthday, it's okay with me. All treats will be consumed before a recess break or at lunch. Healthy snacks or non-food items are encouraged!

Water:
Students are welcome to bring in a water bottle into the classroom and for use outside Please, no other liquid other than water is allowed. Please send water in a closeable water bottle that does not leak easily. We also have a water fountain in the classroom.

Friday Folders:
Every Friday your child will be bringing home a yellow folder. This will be filled with important newsletters, handouts, and student work. Please make sure you go through the folder before the following Monday when your student should bring it back to school.

Agendas:
At the end of each school day, we will write important homework and event notes in our agendas. Please make sure you check your child's agenda each day! Additionally, agendas are a great way to send a quick note as I check them everyday.

Book Orders:
On occasion, Scholastic book orders will be sent home. Ordering is purely optional, though all points received from class orders does allow for more books to be ordered for the classroom. Keep in mind – books make great gifts for kids!

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Curriculum Content

Reading:
Our current reading series is ReadyGen by Pearson Publishing. The series teaches comprehension and grammar skills, vocabulary, and reading/writing strategies through the use of excellent children's literature. ReadyGen's focus is on deepening content knowledge and comprehension through complex texts, academic vocabulary, close reading, and foundational skills.

Spelling:
This year we will be focusing on learning spelling through word study in our classroom. Each Friday I will test the class on their spelling for that week's list. I will upload each list to Spelling City, which is accessible at home (it includes mini quizzes and games for practice!). Additionally, I will include the list on the back of the green reading log homework for practice at home.

Writing:
Second graders will practice and master three types of writing prompts: narrative, opinion and expository. We will be doing daily quick writes in the morning, bringing personal writing pieces through the writing process, and integrating writing into all of our subject areas. Furthermore, each student will have a writing goal to especially focus on (this will change as they improve on that goal). These goals include finger spacing, using punctuation, having correct sight words, adding details, and writing neatly.

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Social Studies/Science:
Two of our main science units this year will be soil and plant growth and development. On top of these units, we will be studying various topics and themes throughout the year such as arctic animals, our community, wants and needs, elections, and much more! We will be integrating all subjects together so that we can best understand each unit and topic that we study.

Math:
Our Math series will be My Math. This program teaches second grade level math skills and allows for a building of skills throughout the year. Some of the big topics that we will be covering are double digit addition and subtraction, graphing, place value, time, and money! We will also be using an online math game called Reflexmath to help gain better math fluency in addition and subtraction facts.

Grading Scale:
Exceeds grade level expectations and has gone above and beyond what is expected – 4
Meets grade level expectations and is proficient in this skill- 3
Working towards gaining mastery in this skill- 2
Struggling to gain mastery and needs frequent additional support- 1
Not turned in or not covered in class yet- 0

Note: Grades are reported on report cards and progress updates will be given during parent teacher conferences. You may also request a support meeting to discuss concerns in grades at anytime.

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OTHER ACADEMICS

Morning Work:
Most days children have from the time they arrive at school (no earlier than 8:20am) until about 8:45 am to complete the following items.
-Turn in any special papers or homework
-Write the question of the day in their writing journals
- Share during our morning meeting

Starting as soon as the bell rings reminds students that we have much to accomplish this year! Please have your child to class before the tardy bell rings so that he or she may begin on time and in a calm fashion with the rest of the class. I appreciate your concern for your child's education!

Handwriting:
Having neat work is important to being successful not only in the classroom, but outside as well. This year we will be using the Handwriting Without Tears curriculum. It teaches and supports neat and accurate handwriting with interactive and fun hands-on activities.

Classroom Website:
This year I have created a website where you can find out about all of the exciting things happening in our class! I will post important documents such as homework, project papers, newsletters, etc. on there for easy download. Additionally, it contains links to all of our classroom resources and learning games for you to check out at home. Please check it often for any updates!

http://lhermanclass.weebly.com/

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HOMEWORK

Weekly Homework:
Second grade is the year where we begin to transition from learning to read to reading for comprehension. In order to achieve this goal, students need to be practicing reading daily. Every Friday your child will bring home a green reading log. My expectation is that your child reads at least 20 minutes a night for a total of 100 minutes a week. Reading more is always encouraged! On your child's reading log, please record the minutes read for each day with parent or guardian initials next to this number. This will be your child's "Fun Friday" ticket for the following week, so please make sure your child is recording their minutes and that they bring it back to school on time. Green homework is always due back the following Friday unless noted.

Math:
Our math books come with a homework page at the end of each lesson. These homework pages allow students to practice and apply the skills that they learned that day in class. Sometimes I will be sending home these work pages for homework if I notice the class as a whole needs more practice or if your child needs additional review. If math homework is sent home then it will be recorded in your child's agenda. It is due back the following day unless noted.

Homework help:
If you ever notice your child is struggling with a particular assignment or is having a hard week please feel free to contact me. Furthermore, about 2 times a week we will have "catch up" time where students can choose to work on homework, unfinished classroom work, or reading. This is to support students who are struggling with a particular assignment, or those who have busy schedules outside of school.

* If your child cannot find their green homework please let me know ASAP so that I can give them a replacement before the following Friday. Additionally, I will be uploading the document onto the classroom website for easy downloading.

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PARENT INVOLVEMENT

There are a variety of ways to help out in our classroom!
- volunteer for field trips, parties or come teach a special activity or craft
-donate items to our classroom
-donate treats/snacks for classroom parties
-PTO Committee
-give extra time to your child at home to enjoy one another (this can be the most educational of all!)

Communication
-My Website: http://lhermanclass.weebly.com/
-Email: l.herman@laschools.net
-Homework Folders/Agendas: Please sign and return agendas each day
-Yellow Folders: These will be sent home every Friday with important handouts and your child's work
-Report Cards: Will be sent home in December and the last day of school
-Conferences: These will be held in October and February. We will go over your child's progress and any questions/concerns you have

If there is an emergency or reason to get in touch with me quickly during school hours please call the front office.

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Read Every Day R.E.D.

After getting to know your child's reading level, you will start noticing a folder labeled "R.E.D. Folder" coming home. Inside this folder will include a classroom book that has been determined to be a good fit for your child's reading level. This book is for your child to read at home to practice their reading fluency and comprehension. When you have noticed your child can read the book through fluently and correctly, write down the title of the book, date, and your signature on the reading log in the folder. Please return the book and folder to school once your child has shown you they can read the book fluently.

After a book is brought back, I will ask them to read a section from it. If they can read it fluently I will put a sticker on their log, take the book out, and replace it with a higher level book.

If you think your child needs more practice with the book, please keep the folder and book at home until they are ready to read it to me!

The R.E.D. books belong to our classroom. Please remind your child the appropriate way to treat our books and be sure all books are returned in a timely manner.

On each R.E.D. folder there will be a list of sample reading questions. Please ask your child 3-4 of these during and after they have read the book that day. These questions will help your child begin reading for understanding and improve their comprehension. You may record the time you read your R.E.D. book on your green homework log.

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BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

BE RESPONSIBLE
BE RESPECTFUL
BE SAFE
BE A LEARNER

REWARDS:
Everyday each student will start on the color green "ready to learn". As the day goes on, they can move up the down on the chart depending on the choices they make in class. If a student ends up on blue at the end of the day they receive 1 star point. If they end up on purple they get 2 star points. After receiving 20 star points they may pick a prize from our prize box!

CONSEQUENCES:
If a student is making choices that are not best for their learning and others around them, and has been asked to make a better choice more than once they may move down to orange or red on our star chart.
If a student ends up on orange it is the "teacher's choice" which is typically a loss of a reward, and red is "contact parents".

BEHAVIOR LOG:
Every week I will send home your child's behavior log which will be marked with the color that they ended on each day as well as any important notes. Please look this over and discuss it with your child at the end of each week. This behavior log is due back every Monday with a parent or guardian signature.

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I look forward to helping and encouraging your child to progress academically and socially. I trust that it will be a wonderful school year for all of us!

Please don't hesitate to call me with any joys, questions, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Herman

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