

Charlottesville Catholic School

Friday Newsletter

2nd Grade 08/27/21

Teacher's Message/Announcements

Dear Second Grade Families,

What a wonderful first week! We have loved getting to know your children and are excited to see how much they grow this year!

One exciting thing this year is that, for those who are Catholic, they will be receiving their First Communion and First Reconciliation! For planning purposes, please complete the following form for Miss Jones [2nd Grade Sacrament form](#) by next Friday.

Finally, while your students have homeroom teachers, they see both of us each day. To keep both teachers in the loop of absences, issues, or concerns, we ask that you copy both teachers on emails.

Have a great weekend!
Ms. Jones and Mrs. Pilipowskyj

Announcements:

- This Monday is Blue-Gold Day! Students participating must be in regular uniform bottoms and shoes, but may wear their "Go Gold" or "Go Blue" CCS shirt.
- Red folders come home every Friday. This week, you will find very little, if anything in them. Please review the papers sent home and return the **empty folder** on Monday.
- Homework starts next week. We ask that your child reads every night for at least 20 minutes. For now, reading will just be on the honor system. Math homework will come out of their math books Monday-Thursday in their blue folder. It should be completed and returned the next day. Spelling homework will start after Labor Day.
- Performance Series testing for second grade is September 8th and 9th. Please make sure your child has had a good breakfast and is on time for school on those days to help them be as successful as possible!
- We are outside for recess twice a day and some days for lunch. If your child wants a hat and towel to make outside time cooler, please feel free to send one to keep in their lockers.

Math

This week we started doing calendar math, tracking the days of the week, representing numbers in tally marks, tens frames, and place value, as well as reviewing other key concepts like money, time, and patterns.

Next week we will talk about money by naming coins, identifying their value, and determining combined totals. We will be working on learning how to work independently and with partners during math time to allow for the teachers to pull small groups for targeted instruction. Finally, we will begin to assess students to determine the foundational math knowledge they are

bringing into this school year.

Reading

This week we identified stamina as something we want to build while reading. Students practiced reading-to-self, discussed three ways to read a book, and good places to read a book.

Next week we will continue to build our stamina by practicing independent reading. Students will also review how to read to someone.

Writing

This week we brainstormed things we liked as future writing topics. We also wrote about our summer vacation and our Hopes & Dreams that we have for this year.

Next week we set up our writer's notebook and generate other ideas for writing. We will discuss steps for writing independently and practice writing a story.

Science / Social Studies

This week we watched Mystery Doug videos about what a scientist is and why it's so hard to come up with new inventions. We also designed our own lab coats to go in our science notebooks. Most memorable, the kids did their first STEM challenge in their classrooms where they had to find a way to represent a favorite summer memory using just a piece of construction paper, three drinking straws, and coloring materials. Their products showed a wide range of thinking. Everyone enjoyed sharing and learning about each other through this project!

Next week we'll be learning about the scientific method and will go to the STEM lab for the first time. The goal is to get into the STEM lab as a whole second grade at least three times a month! During our time in the STEM lab, we will do STEM challenges, experiments, and team builders as a grade level. This is a great way for your students to see other classmates and to see each other as one big team!

Religion

This week we practiced reverence when praying and visiting the chapel. We also discussed who Saints are and how we can become Saints.

Next week we will discuss our 2nd grade patron Saint, St. Therese of Lisieux, answer the question "How do we know God?" and look at the upcoming Sunday Gospel reading.

Spelling

This week we took our spelling pre-test that will help Mrs. Pilipowskyj determine spelling groups for the first part of the year. Spelling groups are fluid and will be changed as needed. Next week, we will be learning about spelling practice strategies using our classmates' names. The following week, our spelling list will be a grade-level sight word list and will take their first spelling quiz. Overall, the next two weeks are being used to establish routines and get baseline data.

Following this time, your student will receive leveled words. If you believe the words are too easy or too hard for your student, I ask you to please give me two weeks with your child in that group before reaching out with concerns. The assessment to determine groups is not perfect, but is pretty accurate! I watch the students pretty carefully during those trial weeks before deciding they are in that specific level for the time being. I appreciate your patience

while I find the perfect fit for you child!