

# Mrs. Hale's Second Grade Class

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at [mhale@gcswarriors.org](mailto:mhale@gcswarriors.org)

## SPECIALS

- Monday: Music
- Tuesday: Computer
- Wednesday: Library
- Thursday: PE
- Friday: Art

## SECOND GRADE FIRSTS

- Latin
- Planners
- Wordly Wise
- Unprepared chart
- Grammar
- Book Clubs

I am so excited to have your child in my class this year. This is my seventh year teaching at GCS, and I am so thankful to be able to work in such a Christ centered, encouraging environment. I have three children of my own who are also students here at GCS.

I often call this the year of independence. The kids are really ready to take some of the things they have learned and mastered and apply them to their lives now. One thing they get to do is read directions on their own as much as possible. They get excited about the freedom and ownership they can take for their own work. They will also have opportunities to work at their own pace this year as we get into our studies. The students will get to class each day and make their way through our morning routine on their own as we get everyone settled. It's an awesome process to see them grow and soar in such big ways!

We will have Mrs. Mason with us every morning and through lunch time. She is an awesome help to both the students and me. She will take the kids to recess, work with kids one on one, be with us during lunch time, and work with students in small groups while I lead reading groups.

## MONDAY FOLDERS AND CLASS NEWS

Each Monday, a white correspondence envelope will be sent home containing class work, parent information, and other notes. **Please keep the papers each week**, but return the envelope with your child the next day, **signed and dated**.

Our class news is sent to your email account. This weekly Bible letter contains important class information such as the Bible memory verse and words to study. Please check the GCS website for school reminders and dates.

## BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are very special for second graders! Students receive a birthday bag, we hang a special birthday banner, and we do some special things to celebrate the birthday kid. If your child has a summer birthday, we will celebrate in May. We do not celebrate birthdays with food in the classroom. Please feel free to have your child bring in a favorite book they would like me to read to the class on their birthday. If they are comfortable, they may read it to the class themselves.

If you choose to send in party invitations you must send in one for each child in the classroom. Another option is to invite all girls or all boys from the class.

## RENWEB

RenWeb has grades, as well as report cards, lunch ordering, and library books checked out. Please stay current with your child's progress by checking weekly. It is important that everyone has access and checks it on a regular basis.

## SNACK

We will have a snack time each day, even on early dismissal days! Some ideas for snack would include yogurt, fruit or vegetables, cheese, crackers, etc. Your child is welcome to bring a water bottle for this time but please, no juice. No sugary or dessert items for snack time.

## LUNCH

Our class has lunch at 12:10 each day. This year, we will have lunch in the classroom. We have one microwave in our classroom. Anytime you can, please send a lunch that does not need to be microwaved so they don't have to wait long periods of time to use the microwave. Mrs. Mason and I will cover the kids' lunch time here in our classroom. Pizza will be available for ordering on Fridays. Look for details on how to order to come from the office.

## BIBLE VERSE

Students will recite the weekly verse and catechism answers on Fridays. I make it a point to practice as much as possible in class throughout the week. The hope is that the kids will just need a quick review at home on Thursday evening to prepare for the test. This information is located weekly on the class newsletter or "Bible Letter." Grading: 3 points off for each "help" the teacher has to give. If a student needs 8 "helps" to recite the verse or catechism, he/she will be asked to practice the verse over the weekend and recite again on Monday. When students still don't know the verse, they will be given a 75%.

## SPELLING/VOCABULARY

We use the Wordly Wise spelling and vocabulary program in the second grade; this is a big change from first grade. Students will be assessed over 10 vocabulary words the first week and the same 10 spelling words the next week. We will spend class time each day reviewing vocabulary, dictionary skills, and spelling. You can access our word lists for games and flashcards any time by using [quizlet.com](http://quizlet.com) and searching Wordly Wise 300 Book 2 and the lesson number.

## HOMEWORK

In second grade, I often encourage the students to work hard at school when it's time to work. They are encouraged to see school as their job. If we accomplish our goals during the school day, we won't have much homework to do at home. To this end, I try to give only small amounts of homework. I want to stay away from busy work and only send homework that quickly reinforces what we are doing so that you, the parents, can keep an eye on what we are going through in class.

In second grade we use planners, the same school planners they will use all the way through Middle School. We will write down the day's homework in class together. I check to see that each student has copied it correctly, and they bring it home for you to see and sign. You will not need to sign the reading book or math page like you did in first grade. This really puts more of the responsibility on the students and prepares them for the same procedures in the following grades. Plus, they think the planner is super cool and grown up!

On nights when there is reading homework, have your child read the designated pages aloud. Remember to ask questions and discuss stories to strengthen comprehension skills. Please don't read past the assigned pages.

All math homework should be checked by a parent. Your child should be able to do math side B independently with only a little guidance from you. When checking homework, please leave me notes with concepts your child is having difficulty with and then have your child correct the work.

On Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, please sign your child's student planner when they have completed the day's homework.

Please check your child's blue homework folder daily for occasional mid-week office notices. You may also send notes to me in this blue folder.

It is also a great idea to practice spelling and vocab words at home when you have a few extra minutes. The ride to and from school is a great place to plug this in.

For kids who forget to have something signed or any other part of a homework assignment, they will receive a tally mark. When they receive 5 tally marks, they may miss a few minutes of recess. Again, this really helps put the burden of responsibility on the student and helps keep them motivated to accomplish their tasks.

For kids that just want extra homework, we have a few opportunities. The Book It program will start in October. We also have an optional school reading initiative called the Honors Reading Program (check the school website for details). I also have a class rewards initiative for kids who are completing all of our normal work and want more. This is done quietly so that kids who do not have extra time won't feel left out. When I see students who may be ready for more of a challenge, I will help them get started with optional "Challenge" work.