

The ABC's of Second Grade at Dilworth Elementary



A is for Attendance

Regular attendance is key to your child's success in the second grade. I encourage you to make sure your child is at school on time every morning and prepared for school each day. When a student is absent from school they should bring in a note from a parent, guardian, or health care professional within 48 hours to the office. The note needs to include students name, reason of absence and the date they were absent from school. It is not necessary to call the school when your child is absent. Absences can only be excused with a written note.

B is for Behavior Expectations



Every student is expected to do their very best and treat others as they would like to be treated. It is important that you review your parent handbook as well as the school and CMS handbook for all rules and by-laws.

Character education is a part of the curriculum and each student is expected to exhibit behavior that reflects good character.

On the first day of school, your student will be placed in a dragon house.

Throughout the school year your student will receive tickets for their house and be rewarded bi-weekly and quarterly.

They may also receive stickers that have others asking about their good deed. We hope that this will draw good behavior inside and outside the classroom.



C is for Communications

Please keep in mind that we are a team in your child's success at school and

without communication and support from one another, we will not succeed!

Daily- I will send home important information and reminders through their agenda. Please make sure to check your student's agenda nightly and return any communication in this manner, particularly transportation changes. I will check agendas each morning.

Bi-Weekly- "Wednesday Folders" will go home every Wednesday filled with your child's work from our room as well as any important school information. Please review the work, sign any necessary work and return the folder on Thursday.



D is for Dress Code

Students should be neatly dressed and well groomed. Attire should not interfere with learning or be a distraction for others.

- Students must wear safe shoes at school. This included tennis shoes and close toed shoes with a secure strap. No wheels, Hellys or flip flops should be worn. Tennis shoes are required on PE days.
- Students should wear pants or shorts at the natural waistline and all pants/ shorts/ skirts should be at least mid-thigh in length.
- Students may wear collared shirts, V-necks or crew neck shirts. T-shirts are allowed with appropriate messages or pictures. No spaghetti straps or bare midriffs are allowed.
- Hats and sunglasses are not allowed.

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E is for Education

The North Carolina Standard Course of Study has the exact details of what your child will be learning this year. You may find this information at:

<http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/curriculum>



F is for Field Trips

The Second Grade team is hoping to be going on many field trips. When your child comes to school on field trip day, please make sure they are wearing comfortable shoes to walk in and wearing a Dilworth shirt. It is suggested but optional. If they bring a sack lunch, please make sure it is in a paper bag and their name is on it. If they are getting a lunch from the cafeteria, please let me know in advance and I will have it ready for your child that day. **On the calendar we have December 14, Children's Theater.** We are hoping to plan two other field trips this year.



G is for grading scale

The grading scale for second grade is as follows:

- 3- Meets expectations
- 2- Inconsistently meets expectations
- 1- Does not meet expectations at this time

The grading scale does not always provide enough information about your child's strengths and weaknesses. I will try to provide as much information as I can on progress reports and report cards. I will attach a sheet of improvement where our student can continue to practice certain skills at home with your help.



H is for Homework Policy

Homework is an important part of your child's school experience. Supporting good work habits requires a joint effort. I will support your child and encourage good work habits at school. Your child will benefit greatly from your support and encouragement at home.

Students are expected to complete spelling, math and reading nightly.

Students will have a BLUE homework folder, please keep track of this folder.

Homework will be expected on Friday of each week. This gives your student the entire week to complete their homework.



I is for Independent Learners

Second grade is a great time to start working on being responsible and an independent learner. Your child will be engaged in many educational activities that are differentiated and made to fit your child's need. In order for this to go smoothly in our classroom, I ask that you help your child become more independent and responsible at home.

We can work together to encourage these characteristics that will be important to your child in years to come. In our literacy program, Imagine It!, there is an allotted time each day for Workshop. This is a 45 minute time slot everyday that is set aside for independent work time. Your child will be moving around the classroom working on educational centers that align with the curriculum being taught. They will be responsible for visiting each center, completing their work, and making sure that I get it.

If you would like to suggest strategies on helping your child become an independent learner at home, please let

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me know and we can work together to make this year successful!



J is for Jobs

Every week your child will have a classroom job. Each job is intended to teach responsibility and being an important person within our community. The jobs will change each week and your child will be able to experience most of them by the end of the school year.

K is for Keys to Good Character



As part of our partnership, CMS provides information to parents about character education issues. Parents are encouraged to be positive role models and to take an active role in their child's character development. Please continue to teach good character at home and encourage good character within the classroom. Character traits for the year include: respect, responsibility, honesty, caring, justice and fairness, citizenship, courage, perseverance, and hope.



L is for Lunch

All students must have an approved meal application, cash or money on their account to make meal purchases. Procedures are in place for students in elementary schools who do not have money to purchase a meal until a parent can be contacted.

Our lunch time is 10:50 to 11:20. I encourage you to come eat with your child when you can.

Please visit:

<http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/cmsdepartme>

[nts/cns/pages/menus.aspx](https://www.cms.k12.nc.us/cns/pages/menus.aspx) to print out a copy of the lunch menu.

Child Nutrition Services will accept payments for meals but the following methods:

- Processed Meal Applications
- Direct certification
- Advanced payments or payment at time of service by: cash, check, money order, cashier's check and online payment by debit or credit card.

M is for Math Investigations



Math Investigations is a K-5 mathematics curriculum designed to engage students in making sense of mathematical ideas. Six major goals guide the development of the Investigations in Number, Data, and Space curriculum and is designed to:

- Support students to make sense of mathematics and learn that they can be mathematical thinkers
- Focus on computational fluency with whole numbers
- Provide substantive work in important areas of mathematics – rational numbers, geometry, measurement, data, and early algebra
- Emphasize reasoning about mathematical ideas
- Communicate mathematics content and pedagogy to teachers
- Engage the range of learners in understanding mathematics

Investigations is based on experience from research and practice, including field testing that involved documentation of thousands of hours in classrooms, observations of students, input from teachers, and analysis of student work. As a result, the curriculum addresses the

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learning needs of real students in a wide range of classrooms and communities. The investigations are carefully designed to invite all students into mathematics-girls and boys; members of diverse cultural, ethnic, and language groups; and students with a wide variety of strengths, needs, and interests. Based on this extensive classroom testing, the curriculum takes the time students need to develop a strong conceptual foundation and skills based on that foundation. Each curriculum unit focuses on an area of content in depth, providing time for students to develop and practice ideas across a variety of activities and contexts that build on each other.

N is for Neat Handwriting and Work Completion



Your child is expected to use their neatest handwriting when completing all of their school and home assignments. Your child must have neat manuscript before we can learn cursive. Cursive is part of the second grade curriculum through literacy and is always an exciting time for the class. Please work with your child at home to improve their handwriting. Work that is turned in from home should also be in your child's best handwriting. If you would like additional assistance at home with handwriting, please contact me. I am more than willing to set up a handwriting program for you to work on with your child.

O is for Opportunity for YOU to Get Involved



Dilworth is always looking for parents to get involved! A great way to stay "in the loop" is by visiting the school website. <http://pages.cms.k12.nc.us/dilworth/> If you would like to help out in the classroom, please send a note or send me an email to set up a good time. **A great**

time to come is 10:20 (before lunch) or 11:45 (after lunch).

You must be registered as a volunteer to be able to participate in volunteer opportunities within the school. Please visit <http://www.cmsvolunteers.com/> to become a registered volunteer!

P is for Present for the entire school day.



Dilworth dismisses at 1:45 every day. Please do not come and pick your child up at 1:30 so you can miss traffic. Every minute of the day is very important and we do not want them to get in the routine of leaving early. If at all possible make all necessary appointments after school hours.

Your child's usual way of transportation has been recorded in the office and in the classroom. IF there is a change of transportation, please send a note with your child, or call the school. Please see the school handbook for all Bus rules and guidelines.

Q is for Questions for Teacher



Please feel free to contact me whenever you have questions. You can call Dilworth, send a note with your child, email me at (arlene.richmond@cms.k12.nc.us) or come in and see me at the beginning of the school day. I will schedule as many conferences as needed throughout the year. I am available before school and after school.



R is for Reading Logs and Accelerated Reader

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Please read each night for 30 minutes!

Reading every night will help with your student's fluency and comprehension.

As you student is reading it is important to check their comprehension by asking questions, sequencing the events, and going over details of characters, setting, theme, etc.

Accelerated Reader (AR) is an individualized supplemental reading program. Students select books at their assigned book level from a list of titles that can be found in the school's media center or the public library. Then the student reads the book at his or her own pace. After completing the book, the student takes a computerized quiz, featuring 5, 10, or 20 multiple-choice comprehension questions. The goal is for students to maintain an 85% or higher average comprehension score. Each quarter, every child is assigned a point's goal based on their individual book level. Points are based on the book's length and difficulty, and the number of correct answers. Parents will receive progress reports detailing each child's growth in the program.



S is for specials/ schedule

Student diversity and talents should be identified, valued, nurtured, and celebrated as students participate in Specials to make meaningful connections across the core curriculum. Each day students will attend one to two special areas. They include music, visual arts, media, technology and PE.



T is for Talent Development

The goal of the Talent Development and Advanced Studies Program in the Charlotte-

Mecklenburg Schools is to provide rigorous curriculum and academic opportunities whereby each student may reach a classroom performance level consistent with his/her intellectual ability.

We will be taking the CogAt6 at the beginning of the year.

For more information please visit: <http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/cmsdepartments/ci/astd/Pages/default.aspx> or see our school Talent Development Director.

In CMS, elementary students are identified when they demonstrate extraordinary problem solving or aptitude in a combination of areas including intellectual, academic, leadership, artistic, creativity, language arts, math and spatial perception. The majority of identification takes place in the second grade; there are additional screenings in the fourth grade and on an as-needed basis. To grow academically, identified students have clear or extreme strengths that require differentiated curriculum. In addition to language arts and math skills grouping, elementary curriculum enrichment designed for those students extends beyond the standard course of study. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools uses a variety of instruments to identify second grade students. These include Standardized Testing (the Cognitive Abilities Test, and the Iowa Test of Basic Skills), a nationally normed Gifted Rating Scales, and a student-created portfolio. There is a specific listing of [Gateways](#) for second grade identification. Grades three through twelve are identified using a composite score on a nationally normed achievement and aptitude test.

Elementary students who are identified as gifted have two choices within CMS. The first choice is one of the six [academic magnet centers](#) that offer full-time gifted classrooms for students in

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grades 3-5. These schools offer an enriched, accelerated academic program where students are challenged to reach their full potential. Placement is available during the annual CMS magnet school lottery. Students in these schools are guaranteed placement in the Middle Years International Baccalaureate Program. For additional information on each of the magnet schools, please visit the Annual Magnet School Information Fair. You can also contact The Family Application Center or The Magnet Office for specific application information. The second choice is the Elementary (K-5) Catalyst model within the home school. In this model, implementation of the program is a joint effort by the classroom teachers and the Talent Development (TD) teachers who use the technique of "consultation and collaboration" as they develop curriculum and participate in professional development. The Catalyst model allows the classroom and TD teachers to design and implement frequent differentiated educational experiences for gifted children. CMS also offers Horizons, a program for highly gifted students in grades K through 8. Please click on the link to the Horizons program or contact the Talent Development and Advanced Studies office for information about this program.



U is for Understanding

Thank you in advance for understanding that every teacher makes mistakes, sometimes often! I am here to support and challenge your child and will work within my means to provide any resource I can to aide in their success. Together we are a team working to motivate, challenge and prepare your child for success in the future. I know

you have a very busy schedule, as we all do and I ask that you respect my time and energy, just as I will do for you. Please note that all communication within CMS has a 24 hour response guarantee. I will attempt to get back with you in a timely manner but for you to understanding the constraining day here at school!



V is for visitors

We love to have visitors! Please note that if you are visiting Dilworth or visiting our classroom, you must sign into the office. You must have a visitor's pass to leave the office area. There will be plenty of opportunities for you and your families to visit our school and classroom for various activities. Please remember to remind family members or friends that they also must sign into the office before coming to the classroom or lunchroom. In order to keep our school safe and orderly, visitor passes are required for everyone coming into the school building. Thank you for your understand!



W is for Webpage

<http://pages.cms.k12.nc.us/arlene.richmond/>

I am working on our class webpage now and it will be up and running very shortly. You should check out our website weekly for information about school, important dates, and our daily schedule.



X is for eXcited

I am incredibly excited to have your child and family in my class this year!

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We have 180 days to prepare your child for the future and we will work as hard as we can everyday to make sure your child is successful! This year may be filled with many challenges and successes that will hopefully make this year one to remember.

As a teacher, I believe that every child learns at a different pace and in a different way. This is why I work hard to plan activities, which cater to various learning styles. I differentiate anywhere I can so that your child is receiving both the resources and challenges they need to feel successful! I often use small group teaching and am committed to promote a positive learning environment by sparking enthusiasm for learning and instilling a sense of community and character. I strive to help my students develop independence in the classroom along with a passion and enthusiasm for lifelong learning that will take them greater places in the future, long after second grade!



Y is for You

You can help to make your child feel successful this year by doing some of the following:

- Reading to your child is the single most important thing you can do. It encourages them to become good readers.
- Another important way to help your child is to discuss the school day with them. Ask questions like, “What did you learn today?”, “What did you work the

hardest on?”, “What are you getting better at?”

These questions cause children to reflect on their learning which in turn helps them remember new information. Don't let them tell you “Nothing.” Ask your child about workshop, special area classes, writing, reading or math work.



Z is for Zip into a New Year!

I know this will be a great year! Thank you for your support, encouragement, and generosity to our classroom!

GO

Dilworth

Dragons!