Dear 2nd Grade Families,

Welcome to 2nd grade - we're so excited to be your teachers this year! In this email you’ll learn more about Ms. Kadash and myself, as well as some important information about our Week 1 schedule (including Virtual Home Visits, our Asynchronous Open House, and Small Group Assignments).

Mr. Berg is beginning his fifth year teaching second grade at Brent Elementary and his eleventh year in the classroom. Prior to living in D.C., he served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Cape Verde, West Africa where he led a sea turtle conservation campaign. He is originally from Florida and earned his master's degree in environmental education, and his bachelor’s degree in wildlife ecology, from the University of Florida. He later earned a master’s degree in teaching from Trinity Washington University. In his free time, he enjoys traveling, biking, hiking, drinking coffee and sitting under trees.

Ms. Kadash loves teaching second grade at Brent! She joined Brent as a second grade classroom teacher and seized the opportunity to work with all second graders by taking on the second grade focus teacher role when Brent launched its focus teacher model. Ms. Kadash began her teaching career through several literacy education organizations, including The Institute of Reading Development, The Literacy Lab, and Reading Partners. She spent two years teaching in DC and NYC as an AmeriCorps service member. She holds a bachelor's degree in English from Rutgers University and a master's degree in Elementary Inclusive Education from Teachers College, Columbia University. Ms. Kadash loves to read, talk about elementary school math with her husband (also a teacher), and cook for friends and family.

**Virtual Home Visits:** During week 1 (8/31-9/4), ECE – 5th grade families and teachers will participate in virtual home visits. Relationship building is the central focus of these conversations that will serve as the launching point for a year-long collaborative relationship. We will share more about these home visits in an email on Friday. Please sign-up for a virtual home visit time here.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a5fMLw08sv6Hcx7VX0fZom8H8akngPcQlqziM_VikG8/edit?usp=sharing

**Asynchronous Open House:** On Friday, we will have an asynchronous open house where your family will be able to watch a video introducing students to their new grade. Keep an eye out for an email on Friday.

**Small Group Assignments**

*Morning Meeting /Closing Meeting:* We will have morning meeting and closing meeting each day during Week 1.

*Small Groups:* Our grade level schedule has small group time across the week. For Weeks 1 – 3, your child will be in the same small group.

*Specials:* 2nd graders will have specials with half of the class. Specials will start on the first day of school.
The attached document titled Berg-Kadash Small Group Assignments indicates your child's small group and half class assignment. Your child will be online with a teacher during their designated small group time for weeks 1-3 (8/31 - 9/18).

Information about getting your child logged on for all components of the schedule will come in Friday's email.

**Classroom Device Survey**
This information will help teachers provide more specific directions about accessing content and will allow us to better troubleshoot when issues arise. Thank you for taking a moment to help us better understand how our students are accessing second grade instruction.

[https://forms.gle/gqAWC883dppXNFME9](https://forms.gle/gqAWC883dppXNFME9)

Remember to be on the lookout for Friday's Asynchronous Open House email!

Sincerely,
Jon Berg and Emily Kadash