

Dear Second Graders and Families,

Second graders are off to a great start! Through practice and interactive modeling, we've been working hard to build a community in which everyone feels safe, welcome and engaged in rich opportunities for learning. In the coming weeks, we will continue to learn about the routines that will make our classrooms function and will further strengthen our classroom communities.

Home learning (homework) will begin next Tuesday, September 11. Every Tuesday, we will send home a weekly homework packet due the following Monday (Tuesday if there is no school). Here's an overview of weekly home learning components:

Reading	Word Study	Math
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Read at least 20 minutes each day. Record your reading in the reading log. <input type="checkbox"/> Use the "Reading Conversation Starters" to think and talk about your reading with family members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Write a sentence for each of the must know words. <input type="checkbox"/> Choose 2 word practice activities from the menu. After you've completed them, write a check next to the activities you completed. <input type="checkbox"/> Study your words for Monday's quiz. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Complete XtraMath once <u>every day</u> and put an 'X' in the box next to the reading log once it has been completed. <input type="checkbox"/> Complete the sheet targeting this week's math workshop learning.

Students will be responsible for learning and writing sentences using must-know words (5 words/week), reading for a minimum of 20 minutes nightly in just-right books, talking about their reading at home, learning to spell must-know-words, developing addition and subtraction fact fluency on XtraMath, and practicing math strategies learned in class through a math worksheet. XtraMath is a free, online application. Your student's account login will be shared with the first home learning packet.

This year, two goals guide our home learning design. The first goal is to reinforce through practice the skills students are learning in the classroom. The second goal is to connect families to the classroom as partners in teaching and learning. To achieve these goals, we've crafted a blend of independent (reading, must know word sentences, XtraMath practice) and interactive (reading conversation starters, must know word activities) activities. Below is additional information about expectations for home learning.

Every Monday, students will be quizzed on the prior week's must-know words, plus 5 previously introduced words, for a total of ten words. Quizzing previously introduced words encourages mastery, rather than weekly memorization. Additionally, as second graders, students are responsible for the first grade must-know word list. Both lists are available on the second grade website. The first six weeks of school are a review of first grade words.

Each week there is a menu of must know words practice activities. Students should select two of the activities and complete them. Students need not submit their work, but should check which activities they elected to complete. While most of students' weekly practice will be on the assigned words of the week, they should continually review previously taught words. The entire list of must know words for the year is attached to this letter. Our first must-know word quiz will be Monday, September 17.

Our hope is that this blend of independent and interactive activities will support your student's learning and further connect your home and our classrooms. This of course, does not mean families are responsible for completing home practice- students are responsible and should be taking the lead, with minimal reminders. We advise families to set a schedule for homework; a specific time and place to complete work daily.

If at any point your child is struggling with a home learning assignment, please attach a note to the homework packet and we will work to review concepts with him/her. Additionally, you can find .pdf versions of weekly homework packets, as well as a math tips sheet for parents on the second grade Brent website. Please also do not hesitate to send a note or get in touch about struggles with general home learning expectations- we're here to help!

In partnership,
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