

# Second Grade Orientation



**Mrs. Riordan**  
**C-8**  
**September 25, 2019**

# Mrs. Riordan By The Numbers

- **1** Master's Degree (Ed.M.) in Curriculum and Instruction in Elementary Education from University of Lowell
- **37+** graduate credits in Education course beyond my Master's Degree
- **30** years of teaching in Dracut Public Schools - (majority in Grade 1)
- **7th** year in second grade
- **4** schools in which I have taught
- Over **675** students I have taught
- **2** years as the Children's Librarian at the public library in Dracut
- **1** husband who is a 5th grade teacher at Brookside
- **2** daughters, Catie and Molly, who are currently juniors in college

# **What Common Core English Language Arts Skills Will My Child Learn This Year?**

## **READING . . .**

- Increase Sight Word Vocabulary
- Strengthen Reading Strategies to Improve Comprehension & Fluency
- Sequencing and Prediction
- Retell Story Accurately
- Identify Main Idea & Details
- Build Oral Vocabulary
- Responding to Literature
- Using Graphic Organizers
- Identifying Text Features in Nonfiction

## **SPELLING . . .**

Spelling words in conventional English  
using Foundations program

## **PHONICS . . .**

- Long, Short and Special Vowel Sounds
- Blends and Digraphs
- Prefixes and Suffixes
- Words families
- Word Attack Skills
- Synonyms, Antonyms & Homonyms

## **WRITING & LANGUAGE . . .**

- Researching, writing and revising sentences, paragraphs
- Writing in Narratives, Informational and Opinion form
- Capitalization
- Punctuation ( . ! ? , & apostrophes)
- Compound Words & Contractions
- Parts of Speech (Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives, Adverbs & Pronouns)

# What Language Arts Materials Will My Child Use For Balanced Literacy This Year?

My goal, and that of the Dracut Public Schools system, is to develop both reading proficiency and a love of reading through the use of as much meaningful authentic literature as possible. Based on the Balanced Literacy training on Reader's Workshop that Dracut teachers received, the second grade students will be taught primarily with authentic literature.



# What Language Arts Materials Will My Child Use For Balanced Literacy This Year?

My extensive classroom library includes chapter and series books, First-Start Readers, I Can Read books, Rookie Readers, Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science books in addition to a wide selection of award winning books. I may also be utilizing quality literature selections from textbooks and the library.





# What Language Arts Materials Will My Child Use For Balanced Literacy This Year?

## AUTHENTIC LITERATURE & LEVELED READERS

The students will be reading a great variety of authentic literature whole group, in guided reading groups, and independently in their independent reading bags. This reading will encompass both fiction and nonfiction. Folktales, biographies, and poetry, are just a few of the genres we will be studying.



# What is Balanced Literacy?

## READING . . . (Reader's Workshop)



- Read-Aloud (Teacher models reading to the class)
- Mini-Lessons/Focus Lesson (Whole group reading instruction )
- Guided Reading (Small group instruction to work on specific skills)
- Independent Reading (Student read on their own level in authentic reading books)

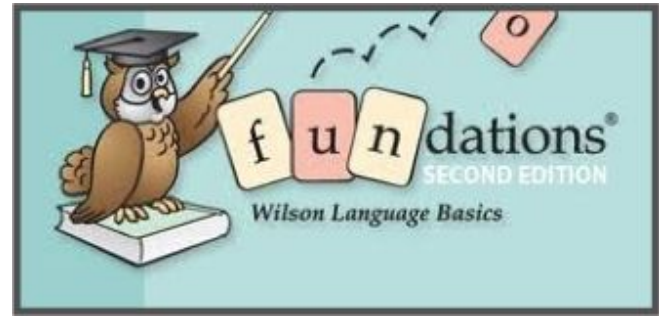
## WRITING . . . (Writer's Workshop)



- Writing Aloud (Teacher writes)
- Shared Writing (Whole group writing instruction )
- Guided Writing (Writing with the teacher guiding the student)
- Independent Writing (Student writes independently)

# What is Foundations?

Across the Dracut Public Schools district, second grade classrooms will be utilizing a word study program called Foundations. Foundations is a “specific and explicit approach to reading and spelling through phonics.”



The Foundations components include charts, flashcards, magnetic letter tiles, gel boards, a composition book, a student notebook, and a journal. There is also a written home component for each unit that is assigned for homework. It is important that this Foundations home packet be completed and returned to school at the end of the unit.



# **How will spelling be taught this year?**

**Our goal is to have the students work toward mastery of their spelling words for a lifetime and apply this mastery in their writing.**

**The students will be learning spelling concepts and skills in a one, two, or three week unit. The families will be provided with a Foundations home support packet for each unit indicating what concepts we are learning.**

**In addition, our second grade team will be using weekly spelling lists based on the skills being learned in the Foundations Units. The students will get a tutor sheet on Monday to do each night at home to help them practice**

In my classroom, the students will take a pretest. Based on the results of the pretest, the students will either have the regular 10 word list or a 20 word challenge list.

The students may switch between these lists from week to week depending on their needs on that particular skill.

Weekly tests will be given on Fridays. I also have review spelling tests to see if they are remembering their words.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tutor Sheet for Spelling Unit 1 Week 2

1. Find a tutor partner.
2. Have your partner put a (+) if spelled right.
3. Have your partner put a (-) if spelled wrong and show you the right spelling.
4. Make sure your partner puts his or her initials at the bottom of the column.

	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4
shelf				
trash				
speck				
flinch				
drench				
brush				
swish				
truck				
was				
said				
Put your initials here				

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tutor Sheet for Spelling Unit 1 Week 2

1. Find a tutor partner.
2. Have your partner put a (+) if spelled right.
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4. Make sure your partner puts his or her initials at the bottom of the column.

	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4
shelf				
trash				
speck				
flinch				
drench				
brush				
swish				
truck				
was				
said				
lunchbox				
himself				
sunlit				
bathtub				
backpack				
pickup				
stopwatch				
washcloth				
shortstop				
forget				
Put your initials here				

# What Are Some Other Language Arts Experiences My Child Will Have This Year?

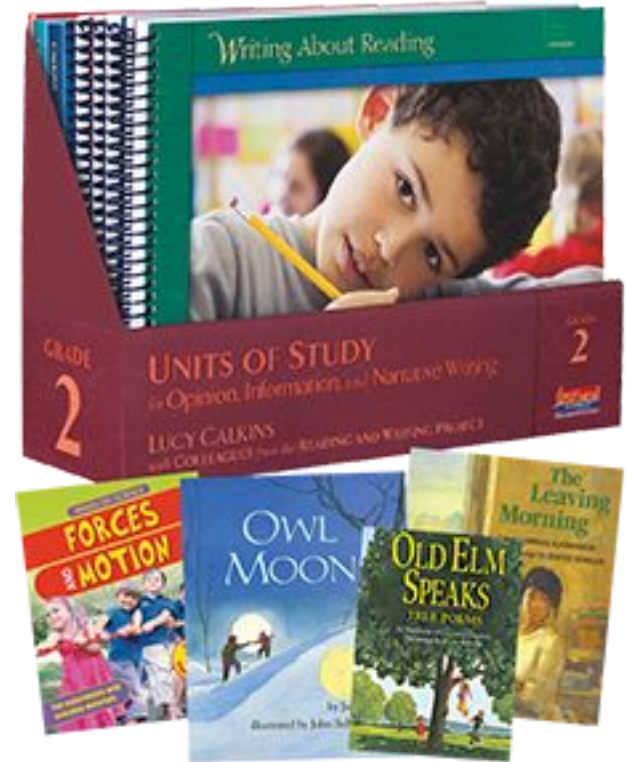


- ★ Morning Message/Morning Work
- ★ Independent Reading Bags
- ★ Independent Sight Word Lists
- ★ Poetry, Songs and Chants
- ★ Word Wall
- ★ Literature Projects
- ★ Picture Word Boxes
- ★ Listening Center with Books on tape
- ★ Big Books and Charts
- ★ Epic and ReadTheory websites
- ★ Journals and Learning Logs
- ★ Between the Lions PBS videos
- ★ Scholastic videos

# What Writing Will My Child Be Doing This Year?

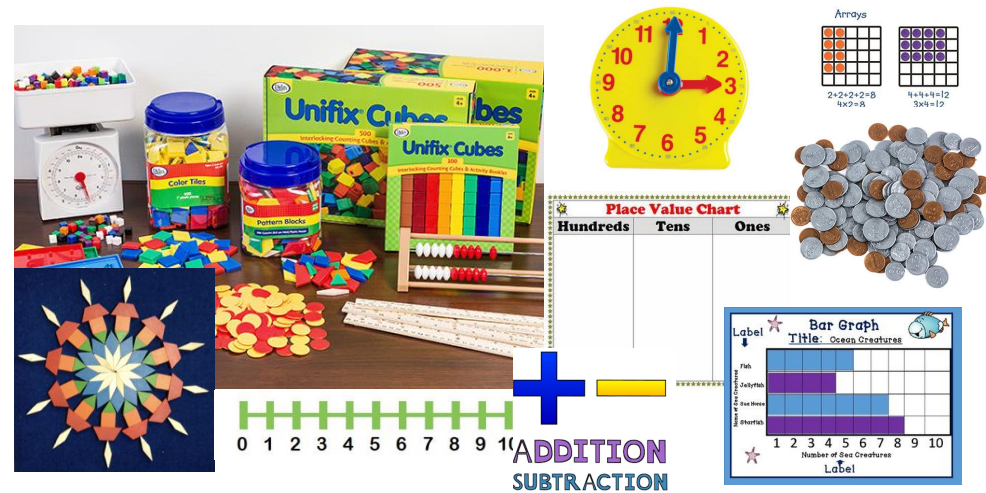
**The Dracut Public School Writing Curriculum is based on Lucy Caulkins' Units of Study. We provide the students with mentor texts as great writing by talented authors. Our students will be doing three types of writing this year.**

**These are Narrative Writing, Opinion Writing and Informational Writing.**



# What Common Core Mathematics Skills Will My Child Learn This Year?

- Represent and solve problems involving addition and subtraction.
- Add and subtract within 20.
- Work with equal groups of objects to gain foundations for multiplication.
- Understand place value and use place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract.

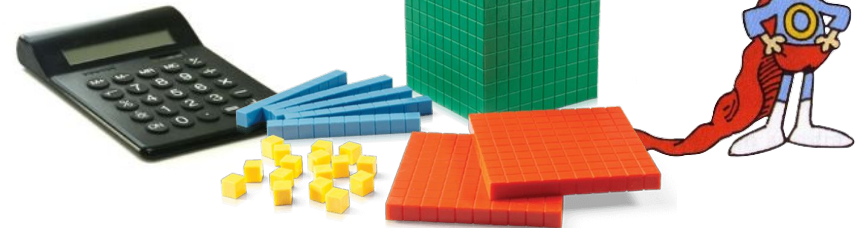
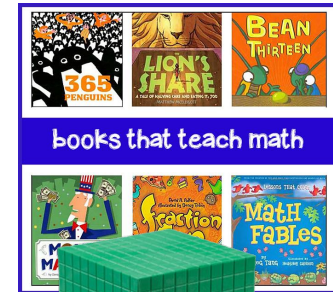


- Measure and estimate lengths in standard units.
- Relate addition and subtraction to length.
- Work with time and money.
- Represent and interpret data.
- Reason with shapes and their attributes.

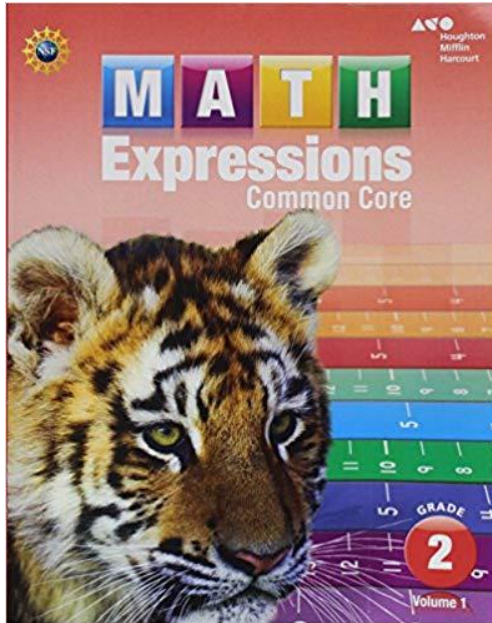


# What Are Some Of The Mathematics Experiences My Child May Have This Year?

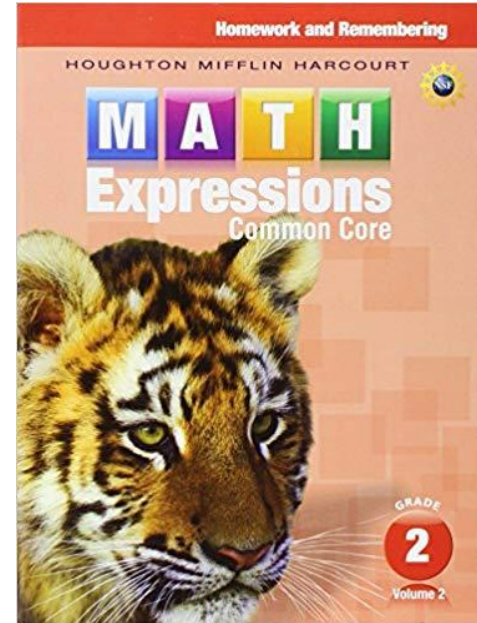
- Hands-on manipulatives
- Number of the Day
- Problem of the Day
- Estimating Jar
- Math related Literature
- Calculators & Calendars
- Math related videos
- Graphs, Glyphs & Diagrams
- 100th day celebration
- Math Games & Songs
- Zero the Hero



# What Math Textbook Will My Child Use This Year?



Each child will have use two consumable volumes of Math Expressions books this year. This meets the MA state math standards.

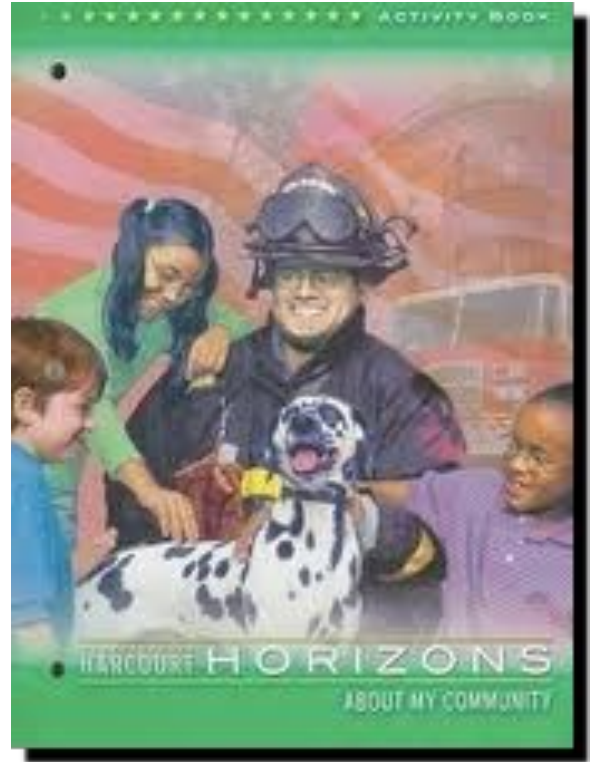


Each child will get homework pages from this Homework and Remembering book. Only do the Homework side of the page at home. We'll do remembering side in class.

# What will my child learn in social studies this year?

The second grade social studies curriculum includes:

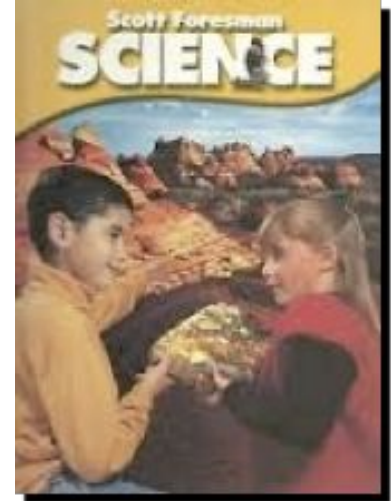
- Reading and making maps
- Geography and its effects on people
- Immigration, Customs and Cultures
- Countries and Government
- Resources and Occupations



# What will my child learn in science this year?

The second grade science curriculum includes:

- Erosion and the Earth's Surface
- Animal Biodiversity
- Plant Adaptations
- Properties and Phases of Matter



# Frequently Asked Questions

**Does my child have homework every night?**

**Yes! Homework is an important tool to be able to reinforce and practice concepts taught at school. Your child will be responsible for homework every night except Friday. Please help your child to remember to do his or her homework and return it to school completed by its due date.**

**A homework folder and a homework notebook has been provided for each child. The students are responsible for writing their homework in their homework notebooks and time is provided in class to do this.**

**Please check to see that this homework is completed and returned to school in the homework folder. I will also try to put the homework daily on our classroom blog/website.**

**Please remove the corrected papers and notices each night.**











# Do you have volunteers in your class?

Yes, I love to have volunteers! Volunteers enable me to provide a richer program for your children. If you are interested, please fill out and return the volunteer form. It is mandated by the school system that all volunteers have a CORI form filled out and processed before they can begin volunteering.

## What is Morning Message?

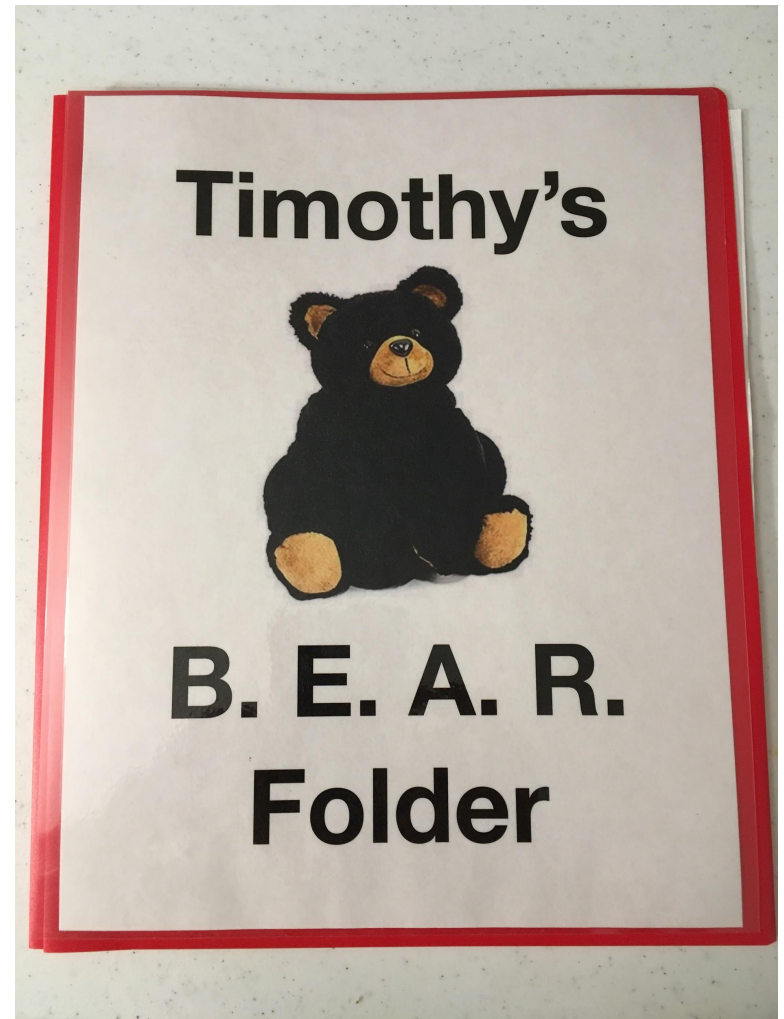
Morning Message is an authentic language arts activity we do each morning. Each day, I will write a letter to the class on whiteboard. The student who is the captain that day will read the message to the class.



<p>September 24, 2019 Good morning C8 students! Today's captain is <b>Michael</b> and the second-in command is <b>Natalie</b>. Today's main lunch is <b>chicken alfredo</b> and the alternate lunch is a <b>pizza lunch pack</b>. Our special today is <b>library</b>. If you brought money for book fair, please bring it with you to library. Love, Mrs. Riordan</p>	<p><b>Morning Routines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Put reading bag in white bin. </li><li>Put math homework in red bin. </li><li>Homework folder and Homework notebook in desk. </li><li>Mark lunch count with paw. </li><li>Notes for Mrs. Riordan in wire basket. </li><li>Start morning work.</li></ul>
<p>Morning work - Number of the day: <b>23</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>wee shal go two buk far today</li><li>tim and jack piced up the spil</li></ol> 	

# **What is Morning Work?**

**Each student has been given a B.E.A.R. work folder. Every morning the students are expected to work independently on daily language arts and math pages. This reinforces curriculum that has already been taught. The remembering side of the math homework page may also be done at this time.**



# **How come my child doesn't bring home as many papers as children from other classrooms?**

**In my classroom, we do a great deal of hands-on, activity based learning. Although there may not be lots of papers, there IS a lot going on at school. Ask your child to tell you what he/she did that day. I will also use my blog as a way to informing the parents of what we are doing.**

## **What are Fountas & Pinnell Assessment reading levels?**

**This is a reading assessment given individually to each child. It helps us to match students to books that are at their specific reading level for independent reading and guided reading groups. It also enables us to track progress through the year. The Dracut Public Schools have set the benchmark that children should be on an instructional level of J at the end of Grade One. The goal is to have the second graders reach an instructional level M of by the end of grade two.**

# **How will my child be assessed this year?**

**In addition to Fountas and Pinnell assessment, there is a standards based report card in the elementary schools in the Dracut Public Schools.**

**This online report card uses 1 through 4 instead of letter grades and it will be given out three times a year.**

**The report card will be on Aspen for the first time this year. If you need help accessing the report card please let us know.**

# **What are the reading bags?**

**The reading bags have begun. The students in second grade are expected to read at least 20 minutes each night at home in addition to their written homework.**

**The log needs to be filled out each night and signed by a parent, other adult or older sibling. Please return the book and the log inside the bag EVERY night. If your child doesn't return the book, another child may not be able to read it the next day.**

**At the end of the month, the students will each receive a reward for completing their logs. Completion of these nightly reading logs will count toward the students' report cards.**



# When are the specials for C8 & who are the teachers?

Monday ----- ART (Ms. Mullins)



Tuesday ----- LIBRARY (Ms. Snowden)  
Remember your library book!



Wednesday ----- PHYSICAL ED. (Mr. Rivers)  
Remember to wear sneakers!



Thursday ----- COMPUTERS (Ms. Cunha)



Friday ----- MUSIC (Mr. Bruce)



# How do I find your blog and why should I read it?

I am doing a classroom blog this year.

The internet address is:

<http://mrsriordan.edublogs.org>

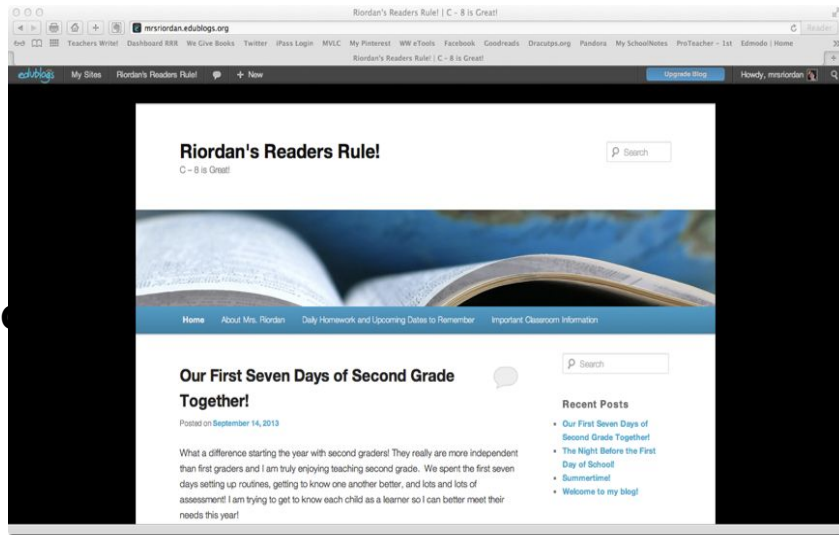
I intend for this to be a valuable resource for the families of my C8 students.

On this blog, you will find a number of pages.

I will use this home page to update families on what is happening in our classroom.

I will also be posting photographs here. I hope you will find it informative and useful.

Please feel free to share the link with extended family members so they can see what is happening too!



If you click on the **About Mrs. Riordan** tab, you will go to a page about me.

If you click on the **Daily Homework and Upcoming Dates to Remember** tab, you will see a page that will be updated with the daily homework and other time sensitive notices.

If you click on the **Important Classroom Information** tab, you will find a page that contains information you may need to refer to during the course of the year. This information includes the schedule of specials, explanations of reading bags and homework expectations, as well as other reminders.

If you click on the **Student Work** tab, you will find a page that contains examples of student work. This is often special projects that we want to share with families at home.

# What is the clip chart?

- Each student has a clothespin with his or her name. Everyone starts the day on “Ready to Learn”. If the child does something positive, he or she can “clip up” on color. If the child makes the wrong choice, he or she “clips down”.
- Children may clip up and down during the course of the day so even if the child makes one wrong choice, the day is not over and he or she can turn things around by making better choices.
- If the child ends on green or above, a sticker is placed on the chart.
- If the child ends on “Think about it”, it is just a warning and does not receive a sticker.
- If the child ends on “Teacher’s choice”, there will be a consequence that matches the offense.
- If the child reaches “Parent Contact”, the student’s parent will be contacted by the teacher either by written note, phone call or email.



# What is the behavior/responsibility chart?

- Each student has a monthly behavior/responsibility chart printed on cardstock which should be kept in their homework folder and returned to school each day.
- At the end of the day, the students receive a sticker if he or she ended the day on green or above. If the student clipped down, information is written in that day's square to inform the family about the choice the student made that wasn't the best.
- Students who reach red (outstanding) get a prize from the prize box.
- Students who go the entire month (or missed a sticker just once) on green or above may get to join the "lunch bunch" and have a special lunch with the teacher.

September Behavior/Responsibility Chart for \_\_\_\_\_



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3	4	5	6
Labor Day! NO SCHOOL!	Teacher's Meetings! NO SCHOOL!	Professional Development Day! NO SCHOOL!	 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!	
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
	ORIENTATION NIGHT			
23	24	25	26	27
			PTO Meeting	
30				
				 SEPT. 17th

**Sticker for Green or above**

Red = Outstanding ☺☺☺

Orange = Great job ☺☺

Yellow = Good day ☺

Green = Ready to Learn

**No Sticker for Blue or lower**

Blue = Think About it (A Warning)

Purple = Teacher's choice

Gray = Parent contact

# **What can I do to help my child get stronger in literacy?**

**READ with your child on a daily basis. Your child should practice reading but it is important that he/she gets to listen to you read a story that is interesting yet beyond his/her current reading level. This promotes a love of reading and improves listening skills and vocabulary.**

**Take your child to the library to get a library card. The library does have night & weekend hours convenient for working parents. Buy books for your child so that he/she views books as a special possession. I will be offering book clubs as one way to purchase inexpensive books.**

**Play rhyming games or have your child read signs while driving in the car.**

**Put sight words on flashcards and play Go Fish, Old Maid, or Concentration with the cards. Play word games like Scrabble Jr., Boggle or Hangman. The PBS website have some engaging computer games.**

**Have your child write grocery lists, thank you notes, e-mails, or letters to relatives that live far away to practice writing skills in a meaningful way.**



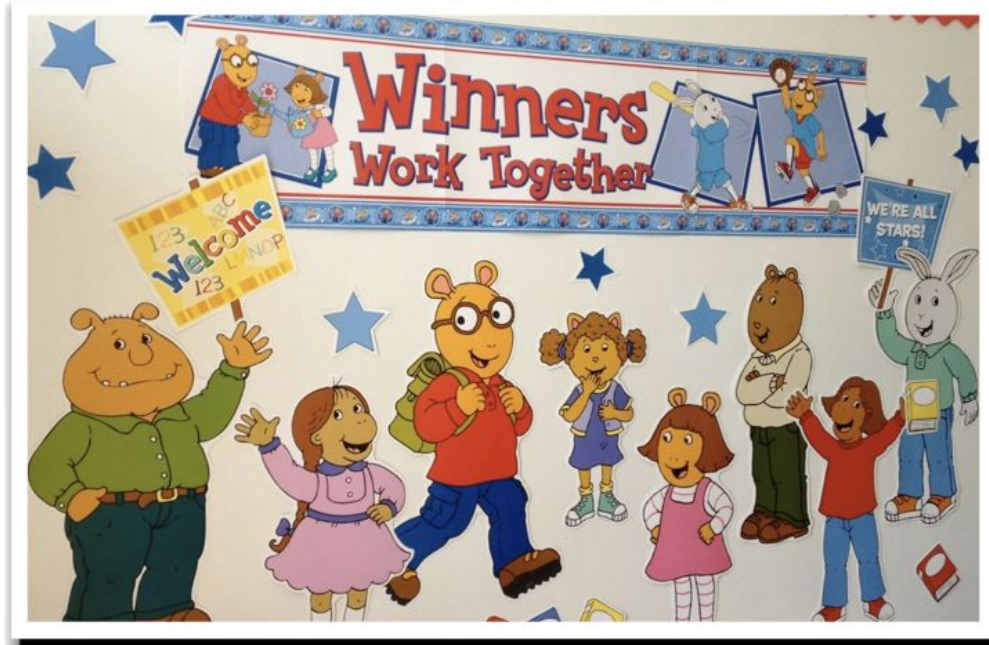
# **What can I do to help my child get stronger in math?**

**Problem solving is a lifelong skill. Support your child in this but allow them to try to figure things out to build confidence.**

**Point out ways we use math in our everyday life such as paying for items in the store or a bill at a restaurant. Have your child tell you the time on both digital and analog clocks and calendars to plan their schedules. Have your child use thermometers or the weather report to make decisions about what clothes to wear. Helping in the kitchen gives lots of opportunities to use math skills like measurement and fractions. Look for other chances to show how you use measuring in your everyday life such as sewing, carpentry, etc. Allowances help children problem solve money situations.**

**Play math related card and board games like Battleship, Rummy, Tri-ominos, Dominos, etc. which reinforce computation and problem solving skills. Puzzles build spatial reasoning as well as problem solving. Computer websites like Xtramath & Prodigy reinforce math skills in an enjoyable way.**

**Extra help is available once a week by invitation. I will contact you if I feel your child would benefit from staying for extra help.**



**Thank you for attending tonight and working together with me to make this a great year for your children!**