

READER'S & WRITER'S WORKSHOP

This year, your child will be taught reading and writing through the workshop model and guided reading. The workshop models reading and writing skills and strategies, as it shows children how reading and writing are connected. The workshop model also develops life-long readers and writers. Reading and writing workshop gives students the much-needed practice time on the skills and strategies taught in the mini-lesson, as well as set personal goals for growth. We will also have reading tests from a story read in class each week with the reading textbook. Reading textbooks will come home on occasion and **MUST** be returned the next day. I will also assess students on skills and strategies taught in class weekly or biweekly through a cold read test. Cold read tests are stories and informational passages with comprehension questions that assess specific skills and are given based on what level second graders should be for that time of year. Cold read assessments truly assess comprehension because students have never read the passage before but are applying skills taught in class. I will send home a newsletter to inform you of the skills and strategies taught each week. Please help your child practice these skills and strategies during nightly readings in their own books on his or her reading level. I will be teaching them how to choose "just right" books that they can read. It is very important that students are reading books that are on their independent reading level so they can grow as readers and truly understand what they are reading. One strategy I teach students when choosing a "just right" book is the "Five-Finger Rule." If they start reading and do not know five or more words, then it may be too hard for them. Please let me know if you have any questions about the workshop model.

GRADING & HOMEWORK

Agendas – Please check these nightly for homework and notes. Every day, students will copy their homework into their agenda. Please sign that you have seen their agenda and have held them accountable for doing their homework and any behavior notes that should be reviewed.

HOME Folders – Daily folders will go home that contain any homework and classwork. Please take out any classwork & keep at home.

V.I.P Folders– Graded papers will go home weekly on Wednesday. Please sign the paper that is inside the folder and return it the next day. You may keep the graded papers at home!

Homework – Homework will be given regularly. I feel strongly about it not taking up a lot of time for students, but do want parents to be familiar and exposed to what we are learning in class. Students are asked to read for 20 minutes every night. This is so important! The greatest way to improve in reading is to read, read, read. A reading comprehension packet will be sent home on Mondays. This reading packet will be due on Friday each week. These packets will contain 2

passages to read and give students the opportunity to practice reading at the required grade level expectation.

A math sheet that reviews the skills taught that day will be sent home on some days. There will be no homework on Fridays, of course! I understand children are busy (I have 2 of my own!) and also just need some rest and play after school! I hope giving the entire week to complete the HW will allow for extracurricular activities and downtime that is also so crucial for child development.

CLASSROOM FUN

Birthdays

We would love for you to send in treats for your child's special day! If you are bringing something that day, please send it in the morning with your child, or drop it off to the office no later than 11:30. We will enjoy our treats at recess.

Snacks and Water Bottles

Please send your child a healthy snack each day to eat during our recess. Also, students are highly encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle labeled with their name to school **every day**. We will refill them as needed.

Book Orders

Book orders are a great opportunity to expand your child's home library at a reduced cost. Each month you will receive a Scholastic order form that allows you to select and pay for great quality books at a fraction of the cost. Scholastic book orders are ordered online and delivered to school to your child. Keep in mind, each time you order books for your child, our class receives points to earn free books.

