



Dear Parents,

It's always exciting to start another school year! We make plans for what we want to do and what we have to accomplish. The children will make the days more exciting in many different ways, and we'll spend the year adjusting and readjusting to stay on track. It's part of the excitement!

We have lots planned for the 2017-2018 school year. Your children will have a fun year and learn many new things. We've spent many hours discussing this year's curriculum and schedules. We will be mixing some traditional teaching with some of the latest techniques. You should be assured that at St. John's the teachers spend lots of time talking with one another about the goals we have for the students as they progress through the grades and how we can assist them in their learning. We try to make sure that our curriculum has no gaps and that there is a pleasant learning atmosphere for everyone. As we get to know the students we ease them into their new grade level with some review work, but soon they will be adding onto their old skills with some new ones.

SECOND GRADE PROCEDURES

Homework: Your child should do homework daily. There will be no assigned homework for the first week of school. Homework and Spelling will start next week!

Specialist classes: Here is a list of specialist subjects so that each child can come to school prepared for the day. Please have your child wear their gym shoes to school on gym days.

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
103 Andrews	Art	Spanish	Gym Library	Art Spanish	Music	Gym Computer
105 Zetah	Spanish	Gym Computer	Art	Spanish	Library Gym	Art Music

Religion: This is a very big year for your second grader. Our year is spent working with you in the preparation of your child for two sacraments. The parent information meeting about First Reconciliation is Tuesday, October 10th. You will receive the materials you need to help prepare your child for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Watch for more information to come home at a later date. Fr. DeGrood will meet with the children before they receive each Sacrament.

In class we talk about the Church, the Mass, and making wise choices. We often give the children something to watch for during the Thursday Mass. We always expect them to sit and stand straight and attentively and participate in the songs and prayers. You should expect the same on Sunday. If your child is not receiving the Sacraments, please let us know.

Math: We are excited to be working with a new math program this year. *Math Expressions*, published by Houghton-Mifflin, is a rigorous program. The children have some choices in how they solve problems, but they must always be able to explain their process. Students will be exposed to many real-world problem solving activities, and the program provides appropriate learning opportunities for all children. We still hope that the children will have addition and subtraction fact fluency by the end of Second Grade. We will explain more at the Parent Night on Wednesday, September 13th, when you will get ideas for helping your child succeed in math.

Language skills: We all agree that we want your child to enjoy reading, so we have some wonderful activities to engage them in reading. Our reading series incorporates all the language areas – reading, phonics, grammar, and spelling. It also allows us to meet the students at their reading level and help them move on in their skills. Remember that your child has to read to improve! Twenty minutes of reading a night is expected!

Spelling units will be done almost every week. A pretest is given on Mondays and a final test on Friday. The children have the opportunity to earn a sticker for every word they spell correctly. Our spelling lists consist of frequently used words, phonics based patterns, and words that the children will see in our stories and work. **Once a word is on a spelling test and mastered, we expect the child to spell it correctly in all written work!** You should have the same expectation on all written work!

Writing skills are sharpened this year. The children are guided in writing quality sentences that will help their stories be more easily understood and enjoyed. The children will be exposed to writing techniques that many adults didn't learn about until high school! **The correct use of capital letters is encouraged (and expected!) as we talk about common and proper nouns.** Children are encouraged to write the letters and numbers correctly. At this time, we accept reversals, but after Christmas backward numbers and letters may be marked wrong.

In daily writing we like to see words spelled correctly, but we are aware that the children's spelling skills are still developing. We accept developmental spelling if we know the word is beyond their level. We will encourage the children to use a varied vocabulary when they write, but we won't expect the more challenging words to be spelled correctly.

Details of interest: Lunch is at 11:40 followed by recess at 12:10 – 12:35. Children should always come prepared to go outside for recess.

--For book orders, if you are not ordering online, please send a check (not cash) made payable to the book order company.

--Unless you are inviting the entire class to birthday celebrations, invitations should go through the mail. Invitations given out at school often cause hurt feelings to those left out. Birthday treats may be sent on your child's birthday or summer half-birthday. Please try to keep the treats something easy for the birthday person to pass out and the others to eat. **Pre-wrapped treats are preferred** so we can check for allergens, and often children want to take the treats home instead of eating them at school. You only need to send enough for your child's class.

-- Please **label** all clothing that your child may take off at school. Sweatshirts are often left at school, and we don't know who to give them to. Many second graders wear the same size!

-- Following the school policy, Second Graders should enter and leave the building using **door #2** by the playground.

--**Emergency messages concerning the end of the day should be left with the school secretary** to ensure that we receive the message by the end of the day. We check email before school and after school. During the day we may not always have time to check our voicemails or emails.

Daily email

mandrews@stjohns-savage.org
jzetah@stjohns-savage.org

Website

miandrews.weebly.com
jzetah.weebly.com

We will keep you informed on a regular basis of what we are studying, and current information will be posted on our websites. Please feel free to contact us with any of your concerns. Together we can make this a terrific learning year for your child.

We're looking forward to seeing you on Wednesday, September 13th!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Andrews and Mrs. Zetah