

### Absences and Early Dismissals

Please send in a note to school explaining your child's absence or call the office. Please let me know in advance of any absences so that assignments can be sent home. All missed work needs to be turned in.

### Assignment Logs and Take Home Folders

Each child will be given an assignment log (yellow) during the first week of school. This is my way of communicating with you about homework assignments or any other information you need to know. Your job is to check it each night with your child, sign or initial the bottom, and make sure that it comes back to school each day. We will also be using a take-home communication folder to send papers to and from school. Please make sure to check and clean out this folder **each night. This folder needs to come back to school each day!** Look for important information from the office to come home every Thursday!

### Birthdays

Treats are always welcome for birthdays. Let me know three days in advance if your child will be bringing in something to share with the class. We will arrange a time at the end of the school year to celebrate summer birthdays.

### Book Clubs

Book club orders will come home periodically. They are optional, but great and inexpensive way to buy reading material for your child. Please send in checks made out to the book club in a sealed envelope. NO CASH PLEASE!

### Contact Information

Miss Katie Appel  
614-367-1950 (School)  
kappel@reyn.org

### Data Binders

Each child will have a Data Binder in which we will be adding things to each day. Your child will be keeping record of the words they can read, sounds we are working on, their behavior (Refocus Sheets), math data, and writing samples. Binders will be sent home **each Friday** to share with families. Your child is responsible for sharing their binder with you and a sheet will also be sent home that is to be signed. Data binders are to be returned the next school day (Monday).

### DIBELS/DRA

The DIBELS and DRA are used in second grade to assess a child's reading skills. DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) is a set of standardized, individually administered measures of early literacy development. The two measures we will be using in second grade are: Nonsense Word Fluency and Oral Reading

Fluency. Each measure takes about one minute to assess. I will go into further details regarding DIBELS at a later time. The DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment) is used 2-3 times a year to determine a child's reading level. This assessment will help determine the types of books that your child can read independently and it will help me set up different groups for Guided Reading.

### Discipline

We establish our classroom expectations together on the first day of school. A verbal warning will be given first, since children at this stage are still working on self-control. If these expectations are not followed, the following consequences will occur using systematic approach for each child. Behavior will be kept in the "Reminder Binder" in the classroom.

Markings in "The Reminder Binder"	
0	Desired Behavior (Keep it Up!)
1	Verbal Warning
2	"Refocus" Form Filled Out
3	Note and/or Call Home
4	Visit to the Principal's Office

Most students are receptive to positive encouragement, so I use the following rewards in my classroom to encourage desired behavior.

- Verbal praise
- Notes or calls home
- Sign name in "The Look Book"
- Classroom "Compliment Container" Incentive
- Classroom "Perfect Attendance" Incentive

### Everyday Mathematics

French Run has adopted the Everyday Mathematics series for grades K-4. Everyday Mathematics is organized into six concept strands that cover a number of skills and concepts. This program builds on and extends concept understanding throughout the year and for each grade level. Please look for your child to bring a "Homelink" assignment home about 2-3 times a week. These assignments are based in what we are learning in class and will guide mastery in second grade. The assignments will be used in the classroom, so PLEASE make sure they are returned the following day.

The major objectives in second grade math are place value, problem solving, and learning the addition and subtraction facts through 18. Fluency of math facts is very important. Please spend 5-10 minutes each night practicing with your child. In a few weeks we will be taking weekly timed tests to increase addition and subtraction fluency.

We will also be learning these math skills this year:

- **Regrouping 2-digit numbers when adding**
- **Regrouping 2-digit numbers when subtracting**
- **Patterning**
- **Solving story problems**
- **Counting coins up to \$1.00**
- **Telling time to the quarter-hour, half-hour, & five minutes.**
- **Fractions**
- **Measuring in centimeters and inches**
- **Adding more than 2 numbers (33+28+13)**
- **Beginnings of multiplication**
- **Estimation**

Once a week your child will go to the computer lab to use the **Yearly Progress Pro (YPP) Math Assessment**. This is a series of 30 questions that show me what your child knows and what s/he stills needs to work on.

### Guided Reading

Guided Reading provides opportunity for second grade teachers to tailor direct instruction to each student's specific reading and writing needs. Based on DIBELS, DRA, and classroom observations, we will select text that will support the selected focus and meet the needs of the groups. As you may remember from first grade, our reading groups are based on ability. The children switch classes for 75 minutes each day. Children have been placed into reading levels based on first grade records. During the year, your child may change reading groups based upon their reading level.

### Handwriting

We will be using the D'Nealian Handwriting Program. This is a little different than traditional manuscript, but helps make an easier transition to cursive. We will spend some time in the beginning of the year practicing handwriting, but will be carried out during centers for the remainder of the year.

### Homework

I do NOT send home packets of work for your child each week. I prefer to send activities home as I see them necessary. Look for "Everyday Math Homelinks" to come home 2-3 nights each week. Homework must be completed each night and returned to school the next day (unless otherwise instructed). It is my expectation that second grade students practice the following each night:

- Math fact to 18 (adding and subtracting)
- Reading 10-20 minutes
- Sight word practice

*\*Poetry Anthologies will be sent home on Thursdays and Data Binders will be sent home on Fridays.*

### I Cans

Each week second grade teachers will be working together to come up with one reading and one math goal for second graders. These "goals" are what your child should be able to do by then end of the week. "I Cans" will be posted on my weekly newsletter, "The Appel Archive".

### Lunch

The cost of lunch is \$1.65. Milk can be purchased for \$0.35. If your child will be buying most of the time, I would recommend paying weekly or monthly. Checks or cash needs to be placed in a sealed bag with your child's name and the amount of money enclosed.

### Newsletter

Our classroom news will come home every Friday with information about events happening during the up-coming week, what we are working on in the classroom, reminders, French Run news, and news in Reynoldsburg. You can also access "The Appel Archive" at [www.readingresource.net](http://www.readingresource.net) by clicking on the tab that says "Miss Appel".

### Poetry Anthology

Every week we will be working on one poem in which we read, sing, act out, highlight sight words, and illustrate. They will be placed in spiral notebooks that are sent home every Thursday. Please encourage your child to read them to you and help them with difficult words. These Poetry Anthologies are to be returned the next school day (Friday). Please make sure they are taken care of. We will be using them throughout the whole year.

### PTO

Information will be coming home regarding our PTO. I hope you decide to join and get involved. Our PTO is responsible for so many of the fun and rewarding activities we have here at French Run.

### Reading at Home/Reading Web

Each night I encourage the second graders to read anywhere from 10-20 minutes a day. This includes listening to books on tape, being read to, shared reading, paired reading, and reading alone. Students will bring home a Reading Log and keep track of how many books they read. Once they are finished, they bring back the log SIGNED BY A PARENT. For each book that is read, a paper clip will be hung and added to our Reading Web. We will keep track of how many books we read altogether...in hopes of reaching our goal. This should be a fun activity for you and your child each night. Just remember, the best way for your child to become a better reader is to READ, READ, READ!

### ReadingResource.net

ReadingResource.net is a website that I have been working on with a colleague of mine (Steve Griffin) from Slate Ridge Elementary. The site is dedicated to helping teachers, parents, or anyone interested in teaching children how to read. You will find the reading activities that your child is working on in the classroom. I will also be running my classroom webpage from this site. I will be posting links, resources, newsletters, and other classroom information for you to check out. (Click on the link "Miss Appel" to see our classroom webpage!) Please look for further information and "Consent to Photograph" form to come home during the first week of school.

### Sight Words/High Frequency Words

We will practice new words each week through Word Study, Literacy Work Stations, and Advanced Decoding. I will give further insights to sight words during Parent Night as well as ways to help your child at home. In the meantime, check out [www.readingresource.net](http://www.readingresource.net) and click on "Sight Words" for ways to help your child at home!

### Social Studies and Science

In second grade we have both a Science and Social Studies series to ensure that we meet all of the indicators. The students will be graded on participation in classroom discussions and experiments, as well as chapter tests and reviews.

### Star Student

Each student will have the opportunity to be the Star Student. At the beginning of the week your child will bring home the Star Student Journal. Please help your child create a journal entry with a real photo to share with the class on Friday. The journal will be kept at school and the photos **WILL NOT** be returned. Here are some other privileges that your child will have as "Star Student":

<b>MONDAY</b>	Share "All About Me" sentences with the class. <b>(These will be sent home the Friday before your week).</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Read a favorite book to the class <b>(Please keep selections to 15 minutes or less)</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Lunch with Miss Appel
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Chew Bubblegum in Class
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Share "Star Student Journal"

### Transportation

Your child must have a note OR call the office if s/he is not going home in the usual manner. Please do not leave messages on my voicemail about changes in transportation. I do not always have time to check it during the school day.

### Volunteers

Anyone is welcome to help out in the classroom. I will be sending home a form for you to fill out if you are available to help out. I will try to send out information about field trips, etc. as soon as possible so you can participate. If you aren't able to help out at school and are willing to do some things from home, please let me know!