

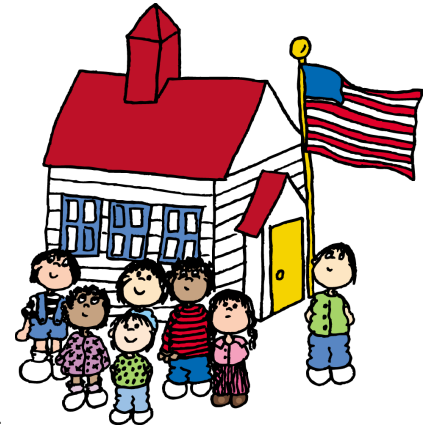


2nd Grade Classroom

Mrs. Sutherland
Garfield Elementary School

2023 - 2024

Welcome!



Contact Info:

Classroom Phone Number: 509-354-2715
Garfield Office Phone Number: 509-354-2700

Google Voice Number: 208-352-3286

(This is a phone number...

You can also leave voicemails & texts -

I see these messages instantly on my phone, iPad, & computer)

Email: heathers@spokaneschools.org

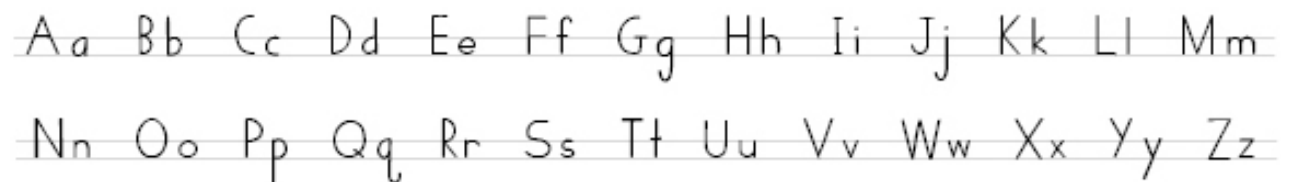
Classroom Philosophy:

I believe that the way children feel about themselves directly affects the way they learn, relate to others, and function in life. When children feel good about themselves, they produce good results; their minds can be challenged, they have a greater sense of responsibility, and their uniqueness is appreciated. I feel it's important that every individual feels accepted. Children have the right to enjoy respect from their peers and learn in a safe, comfortable environment. I have high expectations for my students and work to challenge them at appropriate levels. I will be working to encourage acceptable behavior and create a positive atmosphere where the long-range effects are mutual respect, responsibility, self-discipline, and cooperation in solving problems.

Curriculum Overview:

- **Reading/Writing:** Students will participate in whole-class read alouds (read by me & students, with discussion), small guided reading groups (Book Club) at their levels (decodable books, fiction, & nonfiction), & individualized reading conferences with me. We will be using the English Language Arts curriculum Wit & Wisdom, Really Great Reading, & a couple online reading/language arts programs (in CLEVER: Lexia & Epic). *Wit & Wisdom*[®] students read authentic, complex texts while practicing reading, writing, speaking, and listening, and vocabulary together to build knowledge of the world around them. *Really Great Reading*[®] is evidence-based reading instruction, providing instructional materials that help students develop foundational reading skills that lead to strong decoding and fluent reading.
- **Math:** Students will learn the following key concepts this year: graphing, place value, addition, subtraction, fractions, money, time, geometry, estimation, and measurement. I will be using a variety of resources to teach the same mathematical concept in multiple ways, which helps further reinforce these key concepts. I will utilize the district adopted "Bridges" & "Fosnet" mathematical curriculum, which are aligned with the Common Core State Standards. I will meet weekly with small groups (Math Club) to work on specific math concepts. Students will also have their own Math Folders in which they will record their mathematical learning and complete mathematical problem solving. They will learn to use a variety of strategies and will share their mathematical thinking with their classmates. The supplemental online program is Dreambox in CLEVER.

- **Handwriting:** We will be using Handwriting Without Tears (District approved materials). This method teaches in a developmental progression so children will develop good consistent habits for size, letter formation and letter placement. Children will master handwriting more quickly and easily because developmental principles are utilized and easy things are placed before difficult things. Handwriting Without Tears essentially breaks the task of handwriting down into specific development units. There is an online Handwriting Without Tears in CLEVER.



- **Science:** Students will meet with the science teacher 45 minutes per week where they work through the scientific process. Students will participate in the following "units": Earth Science/Work of Water & Physical Science/Material Magic, Life Science/Animal Adventures, & Life Science/Plant Adventures.
- **Social Studies:** The focus will be on Communities. We will be using "My World Social Studies" curriculum.
- **Social/Emotional:** Purposeful People is a district approved social/emotional curriculum that is used in the classroom daily. In the classroom, we will be integrating everything from 30 second strategies to longer activities designed to teach skills like Courage, Kindness, Empathy, and Responsibility. To teach young people to connect with one another more thoughtfully and skillfully. We will also use Second Step as a supplemental program. The program teaches essential skills for learning—listening, focusing attention, using self-talk, and being assertive—that help kids be better learners and do well in school. It teaches kids skills that help them control their own

behavior, impulses, and emotions. And they are taught how to recognize when they are having a strong feeling and ways to calm it down, including belly breathing. It also teaches kids skills that help them get along better with others. Students learn how to recognize others' feelings, show kindness and compassion, play fairly, and invite others to join. These skills are essential for building strong friendships and help increase kids' feelings of safety and belonging at school.

Assessments:

Children's reading will formally be assessed throughout the school year. I will utilize **Literably** (a district approved screening tool). I will conduct "Running Records" to monitor & adjust reading levels. I will also utilize data from Lexia. Students will complete end-of-module tasks within Wit & Wisdom to demonstrate their knowledge & skills. This will require their reading & writing skills they worked on throughout each module. In Math, I will utilize the Dreambox data, along with Bridges unit checkpoints & assessments. Ongoing formative and summative assessments will be conducted throughout the school year, which will guide my instruction in order to best meet the needs of my students.

Specialist's Schedule:



Monday:	Library/Tech.	12:30-1:15
Tuesday:	Science	10:40-11:25
	Health & Fitness**	2:20-2:50
Wednesday:	Music	9:40-10:10
	Art	12:30-1:15
Thursday:	Health & Fitness**	2:20-2:50
Friday:	Music	10:15-10:45

**Please have your child wear appropriate shoes on Health and Fitness (P.E.) day. Also, please try to schedule appointments outside of the school day! Thanks!

Snacks:

There will be a provided snack every day (i.e., apples, carrots, bananas, etc.).

Birthdays:

If you're interested in sending birthday treats for your child's birthday, treats that can be served individually like cupcakes, cookies, popsicles etc. work best in the classroom. Treats also must be store bought. Birthday treats are served at the end of the school day. Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays at 2:45 p.m. & Tuesdays & Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. You can send them with your child to school or drop them off at the office. **Please let me know in advance,** so I can plan accordingly!
Thanks for understanding!



Health:

If your child has any health problems (diabetes, allergies, hearing or vision difficulties, etc.) **please let me know.** Some of you have already contacted me, or I have already spoken with the nurse, thanks! My knowledge of these issues is vital in order for me to meet the needs of all students.

"Take Home Book Bag":



Students will be checking out 2 books on Mondays. They are responsible for bringing their "Take Home Book Bag" **back to school on Fridays.** The books will be at your child's "just right" level. They should be able to read these books with little to no support.

Red Garfield Grizzly Folders:

Inside the folder you will find two sides. One side is for papers and information to be brought home and stay at home (activities completed in class, information from the office, etc.) and the other side is for papers and information to be read and returned to school (permission slips, information from the office, etc.). Folders will come home on Mondays. Return the Red Garfield Grizzly Folders **back to school on Fridays.**

Volunteer Opportunities:

There are many ways you can help out in your child's classroom. I welcome volunteers to help out in the classroom, on field trips, or for class parties. You will need to make other arrangements for younger siblings. Please contact me prior to field trips due to limited space on the bus. For those of you wanting to help out, but are unable to volunteer time, there are many opportunities throughout the year when small items or supplies are needed for various learning activities. This is a GREAT opportunity for parents/guardians that are unable to provide time in the classroom, but want to provide classroom support. If you're interested, please let me know, so I can send home the District Volunteer Application.

Newsletters/Information:

This year I am sending out monthly informative/newsletter emails. The monthly newsletters are also posted on our classroom website. Most district flyers are now emailed out, found on the district website, & SPS App. in Peachjar.

Breakfast, Morning Line Up, & Dismissal

Breakfast is served in the cafeteria from 8:00-8:20 a.m. (Mondays from 9:00-9:20a.m.). Student may enter through the blacktop doors at 8:00 a.m. If students arrive between 8:00-8:15 a.m., they will be expected to be in the cafeteria, as there will be NO outside supervision. **At 8:15 a.m. students will be welcomed through the blacktop doors** to go sit on the hallway floor by our classroom. There will always be a tub of books there for them to enjoy. At the end of the school day, **I dismiss the class out the east doors onto the playground.** I will walk the class out to the north fence by the tether ball poles. Please meet your child at that location.

N.E.T. (Neighborhood Education Team)

This is Garfield's parent/teacher group. They meet on the 2nd Thursday of every month in the library from 5-6 p.m. in the library. We'd love to have you join us. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

School/Class Management Plan 2023-2024

I firmly believe that life-long success depends on self-discipline. Therefore, I use a discipline policy within the classroom that allows every student the opportunity to manage his or her own behavior. Students learn to accept responsibility and choose the consequences for their own behavior, thus learning self-discipline. Your child deserves the most positive educational climate possible for academic growth. Therefore, this plan will be in effect at all times.

Our Promise to Each Other

IN THIS CLASSROOM WE...

USE HAND SANITIZER

LAUGH AND HAVE FUN!

CELEBRATE OUR DIFFERENCES

FOLLOW THE RULES

Wash our hands often

ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER

DO NOT SHARE FOOD

RESPECT EACH OTHER

STAY HOME IF WE ARE FEELING UNWELL



If a student chooses to ignore our “Promise to Each Other,” the following consequences occur:

1st time: warning and verbal reminder (no big deal)

2nd time: move down a level

3rd time plus: A note or call home to their parent/guardian. If the negative behavior continues for a period of time a conference will be set up with the classroom teacher, parent/guardian, & possibly the school counselor

Level Privilege Examples:

Level 3

- *All level 2 privileges
- *Read anywhere in the classroom during SSR
- *Special seating during carpet time
- *1st to line up for afternoon recess
- *Other privileges added throughout the school year

Level 2

- *On time to recess

Level 1

- *No privileges
- *Logical consequence
(connected to behavior: i.e., complete unfinished work, apology note, restorative class meeting, etc.)



Upward Movement Between Levels

1. Following the classroom promise
2. Random act of kindness shown to another witnessed by the teacher.

*Upward and downward movement may occur at any time during the day.

*All students at Level 1 will be returned to Level 2 at the end of each day (a fresh start for the next day).

*Students at Level 3 may stay there throughout the week, if they maintain excellent behavior and follow the promise.

*All students return to Level 2 at the end of the week (a fresh start for the next week).

A **Reset Space** is also used school-wide to help students get back on track with their learning in the classroom. The "Reset Strategy" is designed to enable the teacher and student to cut off a negative social exchange or power struggle over disruptive behavior and to initiate a positive social exchange. The student goes to a designated desk in a neighboring classroom. The student uses calm down strategies & a sand timer, gives herself/himself enough time to reset, & returns to the class ready to get back on track. I also use a **Break Space** within the classroom for students who would benefit from a brief time to utilize their calm down strategies.

***Please remember that our **school-wide discipline plan** states that:



The teacher follows the classroom behavior plan & uses in-class & out-of-class interventions as an opportunity for students to reset, self-regulate, & ultimately change classroom behavior. For issues that are ongoing & persistent, or for issues that are a major behavior concern, the teacher will submit a discipline referral form to the office. The discipline referral form will result in administration working with both the student & family. Administration will determine the consequences, behavior plan if needed, & work with the family to determine steps for restoring the student back into the classroom. In the case of out of school suspensions, a reentry conference will be required before the student returns to school.

School-Wide & Classroom Incentives:



There are many ways that students can be recognized for being **RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, & SAFE**. Paw Prides can be earned throughout the building (classroom, hallway, playground, etc.). There are weekly & monthly drawings. Garfield Class Awards are earned when the whole class is recognized for following classroom or school rules. Every time our class earns 10 class awards, we have a mini celebration with a treat & activity.



Most Importantly...

I look forward to working with your child this year! I check my email frequently, so that's an easy way that we can communicate if questions ever arise. You can also call me on either my classroom phone number or Google Voice Number.

It is my hope that we can work together to make it the best possible experience for your child. I am here to support you & your child in any way I can.

I'm looking forward to an exciting year of teaching and learning!

Thank you for sharing your child with me this year!

Mrs. Heather Sutherland

