

CLASSROOM HANDBOOK



MRS. KAMPS

2ND GRADE AT EDISON

2021-2022

Dear Parents,

I hope that everyone had a restful and fun summer. For the families that don't know me, my name is Mrs. Kamps and this is my 5th year at Edison! I love teaching and learning from my students. I truly value the relationships that I have a chance to build with my students and their families. Please, don't hesitate to communicate with me and I will try my hardest to respond to your ideas, suggestions and /or concerns. Please read the following carefully as many of your questions may be answered.

Curriculum

Our school follows the district curriculum guidelines. Our Skills program comes from Words Their Way, focusing on word study and spelling patterns. We will have weekly spelling assessments. In reading, we use Benchmark Advance and teacher-created guided reading lessons. We will continue using Writing Alive for our writing and grammar curriculum. For math, we use Engage New York. In Science we use Amplify and we will study Earth Materials, Force and Motion, and Plants. Social studies will consist of teacher-designed, standard aligned, project based learning units. Social studies will start with an anti-bullying unit moving into a large unit on community including history, geography, and economics. As a school, we are continuing to strive towards meeting all of our student's unique needs through personalized learning and sharing that learning through student portfolios.

Class Schedule

8:45-9:00 Morning Meeting
9:00-10:00 Reading Flooding (Guided Reading)
10:00-10:30 Reading Core
10:30-11:00 Skills (Spelling)
11:00-11:40 Grammar and Writing
11:40-12:02 Recess
12:02-12:25 Lunch
12:25-1:00 Mindful Minutes/Read Aloud
1:00-2:00 Math Flooding
2:00-2:45 Science or Social Studies
2:45-3:25 Specials
3:30 Dismissal

Pick Up and Dismissal

Students will be picked up and dismissed on the blacktop of the East playground. Students will not be dismissed until I have made eye contact with the parent or guardian. If your child is going home with someone other than yourself, please let me know. If you are late to pick-up your child, he/she will be taken to the office.

Rules and Expectations

It is my hope that the classroom is a safe place where my students can have fun while learning. I expect the students to show respect for their classmates, classroom supplies, and adults. My job as an educator is to help them become independent learners and thinkers. I am there as a coach, but they are expected to put in the hard work and effort needed to achieve their academic goals. Our learning will be more efficient when the learning space is organized and clean. So, I expect their cubbies, lockers, and class work to also be organized and clean. I will help them through the process, and we will learn from each other. I like to set very clear expectations and routines during the beginning of the school year to minimize wasted time and distractions so we can spend most of our time learning in a fun, innovative and safe atmosphere.

The students will be expected to practice the school-wide Character Education Program:

- C** – Community minded
- A** – Aware of your surroundings and what you are doing
- R** – Responsible and Respectful for your actions and learning
- E** – Empathetic toward others
- S** – Always be Safe

We will also develop our own classroom rules centered on respect with the goal to maximize learning, fun, and the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our class.

Volunteers

I appreciate all volunteers, including grandparents and family members, who are willing to help out in our classroom! Please see below for the requirements. These steps must be taken before you may volunteer.

If you have not registered as a volunteer with DPS in the past 3 years, you will need to complete an application with a background check through the district before you can volunteer or chaperone field trips. Volunteers will need to upload an ID when completing the application. If you are not sure whether or not you are on the approved volunteer list, please check with the office. Please use the link below to register. This link can also be found on my website at the bottom of the homepage under “Helpful Links/Downloads”.

DPS Volunteer Registration:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdLwbfV-7LeVsGQY5MPmS9o9njUpf731U6uRdj1mZ_fBaPFuQ/viewform

***Due to COVID there will be no in class volunteers this year. However, chaperone opportunities will be available and you MUST be registered with DPS.**

Explorer of the Week

The world is a big place, filled with many different cultures, customs, and opportunities. Traveling opens up our mind and teaches us so much about the world we are lucky enough to be a part of! Each week a student will act as our “Explorer of the Week”. Explorer of the Week will present information on a country or city they have visited in the past or a place they would like to visit in the future. They will present that country or city to their classmates in any way they choose! This could be through pictures, a poster, a written report, collage, etc. There is no minimum requirement. Get creative! In addition to exploring a new place, Explorer of the Week will also share what makes him/her unique with the class. They may bring in any item or picture that represents who they are, where they come from, and/or what they love. The purpose behind Explorer of the Week is to open up the world to students, through students and to get to know each other. It will also allow students to practice public speaking skills. By the end of the year our classroom will be filled with all the places the students have been and all the places they will go! The schedule for Explorer of the Week will be posted on our class website. If you have a conflict with the dates chosen, please email me and we can make other arrangements.

Book Orders

During various times of the year, book flyers from Scholastic Book Club will be sent home. This is a great way for you and your child to choose books together that they can use for nightly reading. It is my experience that when children choose their own books they are more motivated to read! Books are also great gifts for birthdays and holidays. Through these orders, classroom teachers receive bonus points, which then can be used to replace and add books to the classroom library. I also like to do a book raffle for the students at the end of the year with the points. Book orders can be placed by mail or online, but online is the easiest method and has the greatest variety of book options. I will send instructions with the first flyer for anyone who has not ordered from Scholastic before. Be sure to use our class code when you order!

Class Code: Q6Q2N

Snacks and Water Bottles

Please have your child bring a labeled reusable water bottle to school each week. They can fill them at school in the morning. I will remind them to bring them home each weekend so that they can be washed.

Due to COVID we will no longer have snacks in the classroom. Please make sure your student has had a substantial breakfast to keep them going until lunch. School breakfast is available in the cafeteria each morning before school!

Birthday Treats

DPS policy states that treats must be store-bought. The treats will be distributed during lunchtime. If your child has a food allergy that might conflict with birthday treats, please let me know so that we can coordinate an alternate treat stash for your child.

Class Donation

In addition to the required school supplies, second grade is asking for a \$20 donation from each student. This money will be used to buy craft supplies for projects and holidays, classroom incentives, and much more. Any amount that you can contribute is greatly appreciated! You can send cash or check (Edison Elementary) or use My School Bucks.

Class DoJo

I will be utilizing Class Dojo to communicate behavior, learning, celebrations, homework, folder returns, and more. You are welcome to message me on Class Dojo if you prefer this method of communication, and I will do my best to get back to you as soon as possible. Your Class Dojo account can be accessed both on the computer and through the app on your smartphone. I will be providing information at the beginning of the year so that you can join our class and keep an eye on your child's progress! Please let me know if you need assistance. It is my goal to have 100% parent participation on Class Dojo.

Fun Friday-Reward

Fun Friday will be held at the end of the day on Fridays. Students who earn Fun Friday will have the option to participate in games, free time, educational videos, etc.

Thursday Folders

Thursday folders will go home Thursday afternoons and should be returned on Fridays. They should be emptied out so that I know you have reviewed all of the documents sent home. If there are papers to be returned, put them in your child's folder and they will put it in the Turn In-Bin before returning their Thursday folder. Returning this folder on time is important because then I know that the papers have been seen by a guardian, I do not have to hunt down folders

throughout the week, and I can start filling them up with papers again for the next week. In the event of a short week, please return the folder the day after it is sent home. Please do not include important notes or money when you return Thursday folders; your child should hand these to me separately.

Homework

Weekly homework will consist of a math packet, spelling practice, and a weekly reading response. Please help your child get in the habit of completing homework on a regular basis, as this is an important life skill. While you are welcome to assist your child as needed, they should be able to complete most of the homework independently. Information about the weekly homework will be in the Thursday folders and weekly emails. **Homework will be assigned on Thursdays and due the following Wednesday.** Homework must be returned on time and complete. Homework completion will be communicated through Class Dojo. Homework can be turned in early if your child wishes.

Nightly Reading

Another important part of homework is nightly reading. Students are expected to read at least 20 minutes a night, 5 nights per week. Students can read independently, with an adult, friend, or sibling! Talking with your children about what they are reading is a great way to build comprehension skills and a love for reading! Students will choose one reading activity to complete and turn-in each week.

Class Website

Our class website is: <https://kampsclass.weebly.com>

I have posted important documents, links, and information regarding our classroom on the website for your reference. You can also access the website through the Edison Website under Teachers if you click on my name.

Parent Portal

Please let me know if you need help logging into your Parent Portal. Every family should have an account. Here you will find useful information regarding student grades, behavior, and district testing.

Newsletters

Each month, the 2nd grade team will distribute a newsletter with information on what we are learning about. These will be sent via email and posted on the class website. If you would prefer a hard copy, please let me know!

Home Visits

DPS has a home visit program that aims to help teachers connect with families while learning your child's hopes and dreams for the school year. Due to COVID, I would prefer to keep these visits virtual. Please let me know if you'd be interested in setting up a home visit!

Communication

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns!

Email: krysten_kamps@dpsk12.org

The best way to contact me is through email. I will do my very best to check emails throughout the day and get back to you as soon as possible! I will send a weekly email on Thursdays that has information on the homework and important announcements.

I am looking forward to a great year!

Mrs. Kamps