Dear Second Grade Dragon Families,

We are excited to welcome your child to Elmcrest Elementary School as they embark on an exciting journey into second grade! As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we want to ensure that your child is equipped with the necessary skills to thrive in their academic endeavors.

Our motto for the 24-25 school year is *“Elmcrest Dragons – we show up: Everyday counts, every dragon matters!”* Consistent attendance lays the foundation for your academic success and future achievements. Every day you spend in school is an investment in your knowledge, skills, and opportunities. Stay committed, stay focused, and watch how each day brings you closer to your goals.

At Elmcrest, we are committed to providing a rigorous curriculum aligned with the Nevada Content Standards for second grade, ensuring that your child receives a well-rounded education that prepares them for success. To help your child transition smoothly into second grade and thrive academically, we encourage you to engage in various activities over the summer.

1. **Independent Reading**: Encourage your child to practice independent reading out loud or to themselves. It's essential for them to develop fluency and comprehension skills as they transition into reading independently. Reading together and discussing the content will further enhance their comprehension abilities. While your child will still receive foundational instruction in reading, it's important to note that starting in second grade, the expectation is for students to read independently. Support will be provided as needed, however students should strive to be mostly independent in their reading.
2. **Writing**: Elmcrest will heavily focus on improving writing skills next school year. Encourage your child to practice handwriting, spelling, and independent writing skills over the summer. Provide opportunities for them to write about their experiences, thoughts, and ideas.
3. **Math**: Work with your child on adding and subtracting within 1000, understanding basic fractions, and discussing word problems together. Engage them in hands-on math activities to reinforce their understanding of mathematical concepts. Second graders will explore numbers, operations, and problem-solving strategies, laying the groundwork for a strong mathematical foundation. From addition and subtraction to measurement and geometry, math in 2nd grade is fun!
4. **Science**: Ready to unlock the mysteries of the natural world? Second graders will delve into science topics such as plants, animals, the weather, and the environment. Through hands-on experiments and exploration, they'll develop a deeper understanding of the world around them.
5. **Social Studies**: Our second grade students will explore communities, maps, and cultures from around the globe. From learning about local history to discovering different traditions and customs, there's a whole world of knowledge waiting to be explored!

**Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)**: Alongside academic growth, we'll also focus on your social and emotional well-being. Second graders will learn valuable skills such as empathy, self-awareness, and teamwork, laying the foundation for strong relationships and positive attitudes.

1. **Self-awareness**:
	* Encourage students to identify and express their emotions using vocabulary appropriate for their age. Help them recognize their strengths and areas for growth.
	* Teach mindfulness exercises such as deep breathing or guided visualization to help students become more aware of their thoughts and feelings.
2. **Self-management**:
	* Teach strategies for managing emotions such as taking deep breaths, counting to ten, or taking a break when feeling overwhelmed.
	* Help students develop organizational skills and strategies for managing their time and tasks, such as creating a daily routine or using a visual schedule.
3. **Social awareness**:
	* Foster empathy by encouraging students to consider the perspectives and feelings of others. Use stories, role-playing, and discussion to help them understand different points of view.
	* Teach students to recognize and appreciate diversity by exploring different cultures, traditions, and experiences.
4. **Relationship skills**:
	* Teach students effective communication skills, such as listening actively, speaking respectfully, and asking for help when needed.
	* Provide opportunities for cooperative learning and group activities to help students practice teamwork, collaboration, and conflict resolution.
5. **Responsible decision-making**:
	* Help students learn to make thoughtful and ethical decisions by considering the consequences of their actions and how they might impact themselves and others.
	* Teach problem-solving skills by guiding students through the steps of identifying a problem, brainstorming possible solutions, evaluating the pros and cons, and making a decision.

To support your child's summer learning, we have included a few practice pages in this packet, as well as a writing journal for them to use. Additionally, there are digital resources available for practice, but we also recommend printing them to further enhance handwriting skills.

We are dedicated to ensuring that your child's second-grade experience is a success, and we look forward to partnering with you in their educational journey. Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

You will receive a phone call from your child’s second grade teacher the week prior to school starting. Remember, the first day of school is Monday, August 12, 2024!

Thank you for your continued support, and we eagerly anticipate a wonderful year ahead!

Warm regards,

Mrs. Reitzel & Mrs. Shipp, 2nd grade teachers

Ryan Linton, Dean of Students

Jessica Wilson, Principal