



# A SNAPSHOT OF 2ND GRADE

*Welcome to the 2024-2025 School Year!*

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

Welcome to a new school year! We plan to make this a great year by learning many new things and having a bit of fun along the way. This is an exciting time, one of spiritual growth for second graders, who will receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Below is a snapshot of our curriculum, weekly schedule, and expectations!

We are happy to report that your children are adjusting beautifully. They are enjoying the Brain Breaks, Mindfulness Activities, Recess Breaks and various Specials throughout the day. They are putting forth great efforts in this environment and we are very proud of them. Thank you for your continued support, we truly appreciate it!

## **SECOND GRADE TEAM**

Hello, my name is Kendall Walsh and this is my fourth year teaching and my third year at St. Cajetan. I graduated from Western Michigan University and absolutely love working with children! I come from a family of five and was born and raised here in Beverly. I am so excited to work at a school so close to home and be a part of the Warrior family. It has been such a pleasure getting to know your children and I look forward to a fantastic year ahead!

Hello, my name is Kassandra Malloy and this is my third year at St. Cajetan. My family consists of my husband Mike, my two children, Elliot and Adeline, and my dogs Bluey and Dipper! I am beyond excited to get to know your child and be a part of the St. Cajetan family. We will do so many fun things together as a class but most importantly, we will LEARN A LOT! I believe in each and every one of my students and will work hard to make sure they know that they are special, smart, and important every day! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have throughout the year. I look forward to the year ahead!

## **RELIGION**

This year we will be using the series Blessed Are We, Faith in Action. This series is very comprehensive, interactive, and provides great home connections that will serve as a home-school link. Along with the series, we often supplement the content with stories

from the Bible, as well as from children's literature. Our students will be attending mass once a week on Tuesdays. We place great emphasis on the students' learning the different parts of mass, the proper responses, and respectful listening and engagement. We will also spend a significant amount of time preparing them for their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. These two special sacraments carry powerful messages of God's unconditional love and forgiveness. Please note, along with these sacraments, there will be rehearsal times after school, as well as a Communion Retreat. Further information, including dates, will be given in the future.

## READING WHOLE GROUP

Reading is a fundamental skill that we emphasize throughout the curriculum. The Reading Whole Group Model provides students with a supportive environment that involves them in authentic reading experiences that focus on the strengths and needs of each individual student. Reading Whole Group helps kids develop strong reading skills through the use of mini-lessons, read alouds, shared reading, and independent reading. Each session will begin with a mini-lesson in which a specific concept, known as a teaching point, will be introduced. The teacher will explicitly model or demonstrate target skills and/or strategies. Students then get a chance to practice the skill or strategy on their own or with the class, and ultimately will be able to successfully implement this skill independently. At the conclusion of each Mentor Text students will receive an assessment focusing on comprehension and vocabulary. The ultimate goal of Reading Whole Group, and our hope for your child, is to develop him or her into a lifelong reader.

## GUIDED READING

In addition to Reading Whole Group, we will also continue the Reading A-Z Leveled Reading Program. This program is closely aligned with Common Core State Standards and is designed to help individual readers. A-Z gives us the opportunity to work with students in small groups based on their instructional reading levels. This type of grouping allows us as teachers to customize our teaching points to the needs of the individual students. Students will be introduced to text and will work on a variety of activities within their groups to enhance their fluency, comprehension, and problem solving. **Students will also be expected to bring their books home every night during the week. It's important to note that even if they have already read the book, they should continue to practice their text for greater fluency and understanding.** The students will also be assessed and texts will be changed as the student moves up in his/her reading level.

## WRITER'S WORKSHOP/ENGLISH

Writer's Workshop is a framework for writing instruction and practice within the classroom. The teacher acts as a mentor author, modeling writing techniques and conferring with students as they move through the writing process. Direct writing instruction takes place in the form of a mini-lesson at the beginning of each workshop followed by active writing,

conferring, and ultimately sharing with their peers. In conjunction with Writer's Workshop, we will also cover paragraph and sentence structure, parts of speech and proper punctuation.

## SPELLING/PHONICS

Our spelling series is From Sounds to Spelling. Words will be given on Monday and students will practice those words in the classroom through various activities (word sorts, white board, etc.) A Spelling Test on these words will be given on Fridays as well. The spelling lists will vary based on the students' overall knowledge of word patterns and phonemic awareness to start the year.

## MATH

This year, we will begin using a new Math curriculum called **Sadlier**. This series takes an interactive and engaging approach that aligns with Common Core Standards. Students will be engaged in their learning and use manipulatives as well as technology within each unit. Students will have a variety of hands-on activities to make math fun! Our program will consist of addition & subtraction, place value, measurement, data & graphs, money, time, and geometry!

## science

For science, we will use the curriculum Little Thinkers. This curriculum is specifically geared towards 2nd Grade and will cover a variety of topics using Read-Alouds, hands-on experiments, and interactive lessons. A student workbook with comprehension activities and assessments is included for each lesson.

The units covered include:

1. Matter
2. Living Things
3. Habitats
4. Earth's Systems
5. Health and Hygiene

## SOCIAL STUDIES

In Second Grade Social Studies, our curriculum, Little Thinkers, is geared towards 2nd grade and will cover a variety of topics using Read - Alouds, hands on activities, and interactive lessons. A student workbook with comprehension activities and assessments is included for each lesson.

Throughout the year, the units include:

1. Government and Civics
2. Learning About the Past
3. Communities

4. Economics
5. Geography

## Homework

It is expected that students should be reading throughout the week as well as practicing their Math Facts. Most nights they will be given homework in the areas of Reading and Math. Homework will typically consist of either a reinforcement handout or an online activity. These activities will focus on the skills and strategies being taught that week.

If homework is not completed and turned in, students will receive a homework slip. This slip is to be **signed and returned** to school the next day with the missing homework sheet. If failed to be turned in, the assignment will be **entered into PowerSchool as a 0**.

Starting in 2nd Grade, students begin to use an assignment notebook. Their assignment notebook is used to write down their homework/ important information. We ask that parents sign their child's assignment notebook **DAILY** to ensure that homework is getting completed.

## Assessments

Weekly Reading Comprehension and Spelling tests will be given on Fridays! Spelling will not begin for a few weeks, and Reading assessments will begin after Labor Day! Subjects such as Math, Science, Social Studies, and Religion will have tests following chapters/units. We do our best to send home material to best prepare the students for these assessments! **Any student that receives a failing grade MUST have their parent/guardian sign and return the assessment to school the following day.**

## Online Learning

### i-Ready

iReady is an online K-8 learning platform for Math and Literacy. Its adaptive curriculum creates a unique, individualized education plan for each student. It allows students to progress as quickly as they like while also providing supplemental instruction and support when needed. Our expectation is for each student to spend 45 minutes in each subject per week working on their own learning plan. Some of this will be done in school and some will be completed at home. Students will complete iReady for homework: **25 minutes of Reading on Monday & 25 minutes of Math on Wednesday.**

iReady goes into the gradebook after each trimester as its own individual grade. If students are not completing it, it will affect their grade.

Please reach out to us directly if there are any issues regarding completing iReady at home.

## WEEKLY SPECIALS SCHEDULES

Day/Teacher	MS. WALSH	MRS. MALLOY
Monday	SEL	Art
Tuesday	Art	Technology
Wednesday	Technology	SEL
Thursday	Gym	Music
Friday	Music	Gym

\*The 2nd graders will also attend a weekly mass on Tuesday mornings.

## RECESS & LUNCH

**2nd Grade will NOT be given a snack this year.** PLEASE make sure your child eats a full, healthy breakfast in the morning because it can negatively affect their learning if they are distracted by hunger!

Lunch & recess will be from 11:35 to 12:05!

## Classroom Management

This year the whole school will be participating in Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). St. Cajetan uses a school wide behavior intervention plan. PBIS is a decision making, operational process to improve academic and behavioral outcomes for all students by guiding selection, integration, and implementation of the best evidence-based academic and behavioral practices.

In our classrooms, students are expected to be safe, be respectful, be kind, and be responsible. Students who exhibit these behaviors will be awarded through classroom incentives.

Each month, we will work as a class to build our "We Bloom Together" flower or Smiley Face Incentive Jar. If the class is caught making good choices, following classroom expectations, or gets a compliment from another teacher, they receive a petal on their flower or a smiley face in the jar. Once the flower is complete with ten petals or their jar is filled with a certain amount of smiley faces, the whole class will be rewarded (icecream party, pajama day, extra recess, etc.)

Additional information regarding Code of Conduct and the PBIS System can be found in the Parent Handbook.

## **“caj coins”**

We will use “Cajetan Coins” to enforce our behavior policy. Students will begin each school day with the potential to earn at least five Cajetan Coins. If students are not demonstrating agreed upon expectations in the classroom, they will earn a reduced amount of Cajetan Coins. Students will have opportunities to earn additional Cajetan Coins beyond the daily five. Parents can check their students' Cajetan Coin earnings on their monthly behavior chart which will be stored in their homework folder.

Students will earn additional Cajetan Coins for behaviors such as:

Helping Others	Working Hard	Staying in Workspace
Being On Task	Showing Kindness	Showing Positivity
Participating	Following Safety Rules	Following Class Expectations

Students will earn a reduced amount of Cajetan Coins for the following behaviors:

Disrespectful behavior towards the staff or classmates	Interrupting the teacher or classmates	Leaving your learning area/ classroom without permission
Pushing and shoving	Chewing gum	Not meeting lunch/recess expectations
Touching others	Throwing minor items	Not meeting classroom expectations while at a special
Shouting out	Swearing	Not meeting bathroom behavior expectations
Minor damage of property (zero cost)	Running in the hallway or classroom	

Individual consequences:

Students will need to earn a determined amount of coins per month in order to participate in the classroom’s monthly incentive.

### Individual Rewards:

Students will use their earned Cajetan Coins to buy rewards.

### Class Rewards:

Students will need to earn a determined amount of coins per month in order to participate in the classroom's monthly incentive. Students who do not earn the determined amount of coins will not be eligible to participate.

*Note: Administration, in collaboration with teachers, reserves the right to view incidents as severe enough to warrant automatic removal from an incentive.*

## THINK SHEETS

When students are having a difficult time following classroom expectations, they will be given 3 opportunities to correct their behavior. If students are unable to correct the undesired behavior they will be sent home with a "Think Sheet" for their parents to sign. If your child comes home with a "Think Sheet", please use this as an opportunity to discuss your child's behavior at home. Three "Think Sheets" sent home over the course of a month may result in your child being excluded from the whole class incentive.

## Remind

We will be using the Remind App to share classroom news and/or announcements. If you haven't done so, please consider signing up. It's a wonderful communication tool and the app is free.

To sign up ... Text: **81010** and Message: **@he7c8b** or **@899883**  
(for Mrs. Malloy) (for Ms. Walsh)

## GROWTH MINDSET

A positive theme we promote in our classrooms throughout the year is Growth Mindset. Teachers as well as parents have a powerful impact on a child's mindset. The language we use and the actions we take show children what we expect. Giving praise on the process versus the accomplishment, accepting mistakes as learning opportunities, and understanding the role of emotions in learning are practices that we can implement in helping a child grow in confidence and perseverance.

We look forward to an exciting and successful school year with your children! If you should ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us via Remind or at our emails listed below.

**Email:      [kewalsh@cajetan.org](mailto:kewalsh@cajetan.org)  
                 [kmalloy@cajetan.org](mailto:kmalloy@cajetan.org)**

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Malloy and Ms. Walsh