

June 2022

Hello!

Congratulations on becoming second graders! I am so excited to spend the next year with you! I know you know who I am, but I wanted to share a little more about myself and what we will be learning next year. I have two sons, Jesse and Cody. Jesse (who you may have met!) graduated from college. Cody will be a senior in high school next year. I have a dog named Scout, and two cats, Meg and Jack. I was born in Nebraska and I have traveled through 43 of the 50 states! I love to go to the park with Scout, read, and play board games with Jesse and Cody.

Reading is one of my most favorite things to do. In second grade, you are going to grow so much as a reader. You will read longer, more interesting books with engaging characters and complicated plots. You will also grow as writers, learning new strategies to create stories that capture your reader's interest. In math, we will take what you have been learning in first grade and grow that knowledge to include bigger numbers and more complex processes. I have a special fondness for science and social studies and I have several projects in mind for us. I can't wait to see what we discover together!

We have so much to do and learn next year. In order to be ready in September, I have a few challenges for you, second graders.

First: read, read, and read some more! Together we are going to create a list of all the books we read over the summer and give each book a rating. That way we can learn about interesting books from each other. To accomplish this, you will log your reading on the attached reading log. When we meet in the fall, I will create a list of your favorite books. I can't wait to see what you are reading over the summer! Read all different kinds of books-- fiction, non-fiction, poems, biographies, etc. -- whatever you like! I've attached a list of recommended books if you want a recommendation. Remember to spend some time reading 'just right' books. These are books that are not too easy, and not too hard. If you need help sounding out 5 or more words on a page, you might want to read that book with a grown-up. Also, grown-ups, read to your children! Reading books that are above your child's reading level is a wonderful way to grow vocabulary, develop knowledge of grammar and story structure and a wonderful way to spend time with your child. Talk about what is happening in the story, what might happen next, and how the characters change throughout the story. What a perfect bedtime activity! You can read e-books downloaded from your library, or on a site like [getepic.com](http://getepic.com)

Second: I have attached pages for a summer journal. Writers always need material for their writing, and summer is the perfect time, full of adventures, to collect material for

your writing. Your challenge is to complete 10 journal entries throughout the summer. Don't wait until the last minute! Try to complete one entry every week! Use your best handwriting, complete sentences, and don't forget the punctuation. I can't wait to read all about your summer!

Finally, to keep your math minds sharp, practice the foundational skills you learned in first grade by completing the Khan Academy math course for first grade. I will send along log-in information in a separate email at the beginning of the summer. Practice a little bit every day! This will keep your math skills sharp over the summer break.

I am so excited to be your teacher next year! Have a wonderful summer! See you in September!

Warmly,

Ms. Gilman