Welcome to Ms. Sebahar’s

2nd Grade

J.E. Cosgriff Memorial

Catholic School

2017-2018

**Second Grade 2017-2018 Disclosure Statement Ms. Courtney Sebahar**

Welcome to second grade! My goal is to create and maintain a faith-filled, nurturing, fair, hardworking environment where we can all learn and grow. The Cosgriff Mission Statement, Student Learning Expectations (SLEs), the Utah State Standards, and Next Generation Science inform all of our work.

*The mission of J.E. Cosgriff Memorial Catholic School is to guide our students to become respectful, responsible, and productive citizens through quality academic instruction that is grounded in Catholic teachings and tradition.*

**Classroom Rules:** For school to be an enjoyable, safe and productive place, students must adhere to the following rules/procedures:

1. Listen when others are talking.
2. Follow directions.
3. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
4. Work quietly and do not disturb others.
5. Show respect for school and personal property.
6. Work and play in a safe manner.

**Consequences:** I do not expect rules to be broken, but whenever a group of students share the same space there are times when someone might do something inappropriate. The following will occur if a student chooses to break a rule:

* First time: Name on board (warning)
* Second time: One check (misses recess/specials to fill out behavior reflection)
* Third time: Two checks (phone call home)

Students will receive a referral if any of the following occur: *swearing, intimidation, bullying, fighting, destruction of property, inappropriate computer use, insubordination, defiant behavior, cheating and any other behaviors that are not in line with school and classroom rules.*

**Rewards:** Students will receive the following rewards when rules/procedures are followed above and beyond expectations:

* Quick note home (from Ms. Sebahar)
* Mystery motivator (achieved as a class when students receive praise for extraordinary behavior from myself and/or specials teachers/other faculty and staff)

**School Procedures:** It is of the utmost importance that your student arrives on time for school every day. We start our mornings the second the bell rings. If your student is late they are missing an essential part of our morning routine and crucial class time. If a student is tardy two times you will receive a call home from me. If a third tardy occurs Mrs. Hunt will be informed.

School Wide Rules for Respect of Self, Others and Property:

* Follow directions the first time they are given.
* Keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself.
* Be on time (be there, be ready.)
* Use appropriate language

*Students are expected to follow the classroom and school wide rules at all times***.**

**What to Bring to School:** Please, do not allow students to come to school with unnecessary items (i.e., toys, unwanted/unnecessary supplies.) Our classroom is full of the supplies that you sent with your student the first week of school so unless otherwise noted, students should not bring other supplies from home.

**Snack:** We will have a morning snack each day. Your child needs to bring their own snack on a daily basis. We do not have a water fountain in our room so you may also send in a spill proof water bottle. Other drinks are not permitted. Please keep in mind that snacks should be healthy and peanut free**.**All snacks should be simple and easy for students to manage by themselves.

**Birthdays:** We will celebrate each child’s birthday in class. If you would like to send a treat on your child’s birthday, please make sure it is an easy to distribute, store bought item that is individually wrapped. Treats will be sent home at the end of the day.

If students have a summer birthday, we are happy to celebrate their half birthday.

You may only send birthday party invitations to school if you are inviting the whole class.

Let me know immediately if your student has any food allergies!

**Take-Home Folders:** Please check your child’s folder daily for notes, homework and completed work. Folders need to be returned the following day. In doing so, we are able to communicate more effectively and it will help us stay organized

**Friday Folders:** Friday folders will be sent home every Friday and will contain a note about your child’s week. The note may be about a variety of things. It could be topic I noticed your child show a special interest in, something they especially enjoyed that week, improvements they have made or any other comments I feel you should be made aware of. They are to be returned on Monday morning with a signature and if you wish, a comment/response to my note. This will help build strong school to home relationships.

**CURRICULUM:** The J.E. Cosgriff second grade curriculum is based on the Utah Common Core State Standards. The curriculum in our classroom meets and exceeds these standards. You can access the Utah Common Core State Standards at: *www.uen.org/core*

**Language Arts:** In second grade, we continue to expand on reading and writing skills. We will utilize the *Houghton Mifflin* program using a combination of daily group grade-level reading as well as small, leveled guided reading groups.

We will focus on developing reading comprehension skills and strategies:

recount story ideas/details sequence story events compare and contrast

author’s purpose analyze/evaluate text cause and effect

analyze story structure figurative language author’s word choice

context clues fact v. opinion genre

We will also use *Step-Up to Writing* and the *6+1 Traits of Good Writing* program to continue to develop each students’ writing skills. Throughout the year students will create and write opinion, informative and personal narrative pieces using the Six Traits of Good Writing Model as a guide.

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| 1 – Ideas  | 3 - Voice | 5 - Sentence Fluency |
| 2 - Word choice | 4 - Conventions | 6 - Organization**+ Presentation** |

We will continue Power Hour in Second Grade. Power Hour consists of three fifteen minute small-group sessions of *guided reading*, *Words-Their–Way*word work and *Step-Up to Writing.* Each student will participate in each of the three groups every Monday through Thursday from 9:00-9:45.

**Math:** We will continue to use *Singapore Math* strategies to meet the math Common Core Standards. We will be using *Math in Focus: Singapore Math* to help supplement our learning. This series meets the needs of all students by drawing on success in Singapore:

* Precise framework of concepts and skills.
* Skills and concepts taught in depth to allow for mastery.
* Use of concrete to pictorial to abstract development of concepts using model drawings to connect visual representation to problem solving.
* Emphasis on problem solvingconsidered central to all mathematics study.

In second grade students will explore the following content areas:

* *Operations and Algebraic Thinking*
	+ fluently adding and subtracting within 20
	+ solving word problems involving addition and subtraction
	+ determine whether a group of objects is even or odd
	+ repeated addition and arrays
* *Number and Operations in Base Ten*
* place value understanding
* read and write numbers in standard, expanded and word form
* compare numbers
* *Measurement and Data*
* select appropriate tools for measuring
* measure and estimate lengths in standard units
* determine differences in length
* tell time to the nearest 5 minutes
* solving word problems involving money units
* *Geometry*
* partition circles and rectangles in equal shares
* partition a rectangle into rows and columns

**Science:** It is an exciting year for science as we have fully transitioned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). NGSS combines three distinct dimensions (practices, core ideas and crosscutting) to form each standard. Each dimension works with the other two to build a cohesive understanding of science. Students will explore science curriculum through an inquiry based and hands on approach paired with reading and writing to reinforce the science standards. You can access the Next Generation Science Standards at: *www.nextgenscience.org*

Students will learn about:

* *Structure and Properties of Matter*
* *Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems*
* *Processes that Shape the Earth*
* *Engineering Design*

**Religion:** Second grade is a very important year for your child as they receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Mrs. Debbie Hogan will be teaching religionclass to all of the second graders. I will support Mrs. Hogan and reinforce the religion curriculum in our classroom through daily prayers and the integration of Jesus’ teachings into other academic subjects.

Classroom instruction will also include Social Studies, Health and Handwriting.

**Homework:** Independent reading will be the primary focus of at home work. Your child needs to read 20 minutes every night. Homework is used to reinforce what we are learning in class. I will not send anything home that we have not already gone over as a class.

We will use daily planners to keep track of homework and due dates. Please, check the planners nightly and send them back to school each morning. The general guidelines for the homework will include a note about what is entails and when it is due (typically Friday.)

**Specials:** The students will go to specialists for Religion, Computers, Choir, Physical Education, Spanish, Music, Library, and Art.

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| **Monday**Spanish1:40-2:10 | **Tuesday**Computer 11:00 – 11:40Religion12:25 – 1:15Music1:40 – 2:20 | **Wednesday**Choir12:40 – 1:20Spanish1:40 – 2:10 | **Thursday**P.E.10:50 – 11:40Religion12:25 – 1:15Library1:30 – 2:10 | **Friday**Mass8:30 – 9:30Art12:30 – 1:10 |

P.E. Dress – Students need to wear or bring sneakers to school on Thursdays. They may change them after PE or continue to wear them if they are part of the Cosgriff Uniform.

I feel it is important for us to connect on a personal level as we will be working closely together this year. I hope many of you will volunteer to assist and share in the learning process in our classroom. If at any time you have questions or concerns, please contact me immediately. Thank you for your support as we begin this year together. I am looking forward to getting to know you and your student!

Ms. Courtney Sebahar

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