



Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to 2nd grade! My name is Mrs. Brandt, and I will be your child's 2nd grade teacher this school year, 2026-2027. This will be my 16th year teaching at Cassell. I have taught 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade. Along with myself, we will also have a Special Education, Inclusion teacher, Mrs. Burke, with us for most of our day. We look forward to getting to know all of our new students and families!

This year's whole-school theme is ART is the HeART of Learning!

MAILBOXES AND LOCKERS

Each student has a mailbox and locker in our classroom. The students can store their book bags and jackets (when it becomes colder outside) in their locker. We store the students' lunches and water bottles in our classroom lunch bin each morning, until lunchtime. After lunch, students can put their lunch bags and water bottles in their lockers. Students will eat lunch in the Multi-Purpose Room.

We will use the students' mailboxes to keep graded/checked classwork, and school/classroom notes. Students will check their mailboxes each afternoon, before leaving for the day, and take home any papers from their mailbox. **Please make sure to check your child's *Home* folder each evening for any important papers.**

DAILY ROUTINE

Students can start coming into the building at 7:30am, and line up outside the classroom until the bell rings. Students enter the classroom at 7:45am. Once students enter the classroom, they put their lunches and water bottles in the lunch bin, go to their desks, empty their book bags and take out their *Home* folders, hand in any notes, and then go to their lockers to put their book bags (and coats) away.

Once the students settle in, they can begin working on their morning work, which will already be on their desks. I will be using *Daily Reading Comprehension* for the students' morning work. The students will have about 7-10 mins. to work on their morning work, which we will then check together as a class. We will then move into Reading instruction. We will be using the Reading series, *Wonders*, and the supplemental, phonic-based, literacy series, *Magnetic Reading*. In *Wonders*, for first quarter, we will cover realistic fiction, fantasy, expository text, fables, and poetry. In *Magnetic Reading*, we'll cover short vowels, digraphs, beginning and ending blends, long vowels, and soft *c* and *g*.

After Reading instruction, we will take a bathroom break. At 8:55am, we will complete our Social Studies lesson. We will be studying "Families, Today and In the Past", in our *My World Interactive* books.

After Social Studies, we will begin Math instruction at 9:25am. We will be using the *enVision Mathematics* curriculum. We will start with "Topic 1: Fluently Add and Subtract Within 20".

We then have recess/lunch at 10:15am. Our recess/lunch monitor, Mrs. Mitera, will pick the students up for recess at 10:15am. The students will go outside for recess, as long as the weather permits. At 10:35am, the students will go to lunch in the Multi-Purpose Room.

After lunch, we will complete our Math lesson. At 11:40am, the students will go to their Special class. The Special class schedule is pictured below.

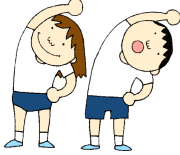
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When the students return from their Special class at 12:40pm, we will move into Writing instruction. For 1st quarter, in Writing, we will cover “Unit 1: Writing to Inform: Paragraph” and “Unit 2: Writing a Narrative: Paragraph.”

After Writing, at 1:40pm, we will begin Science instruction. We be using the Science curriculum, *OpenSciEd*. For the first quarter, we will complete Unit 2.1: “How do wind and water change the shape of land and what can we do about it?”.

At 2:40pm, the students will gather their homework, check their mailboxes, and pack their book bags to prepare for dismissal.

SPECIAL SCHEDULE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
GAMES	GAMES	ART	THEATER	P.E.
				

DAILY SCHEDULE

7:45-7:55	HOMEROOM
7:55-8:55	READING
8:55-9:25	SOCIAL STUDIES
9:25-10:15	MATH
10:15-11:00	RECESS/LUNCH
11:00-11:40	MATH
11:40-12:40	SPECIAL CLASS
12:40-1:40	WRITING
1:40-2:40	SCIENCE
2:40-2:45	HOMEROOM

BATHROOM BREAKS

We will take two bathroom breaks a day. Students can always raise their hands and ask to go to the bathroom throughout the day.

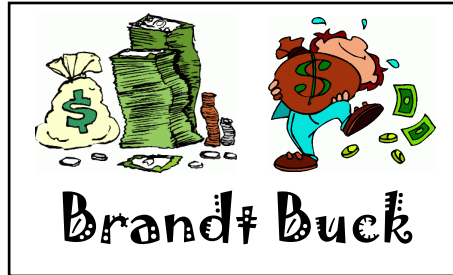
CLASSROOM LIBRARY

When students have finished their classwork, they can choose a book from our classroom library to read quietly at their desks. Students can also bring a book from home to read, instead of choosing a classroom library book. Students are to keep library books on top of their desks at all times, so they are always readily available. Students can borrow one library book at a time. Students should *not* take any classroom library books home.

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BRANDT BUCKS

“Brandt Bucks” is an incentive program we use in our classroom. When students are following directions, helping others, and/or participating, they can receive a Brandt Buck. Students should write their names on the back of any Brandt Bucks they receive, and keep them inside their pencil cases. At the end of each month, students can use their saved Brandt Bucks to shop at “Mrs. Brandt’s Candy Bar” (an ingredient list will be sent home prior).



GRADING SCALE

A = 90% - 100%

B = 80% - 89%

C = 70% - 79%

D = 60% - 69%

F = 59% and below

Grades are taken throughout the week and entered into Aspen.

MISSING WORK PROTOCOL

Students will have 2 days to make up the work for each class day they were absent and will be graded according to the same criteria as if the student had not been absent

- For every day after the 2 days, the assignment will be graded for accuracy and also have 10 points deducted from the remaining total points (Include this in your parent letters!)
- Both absent and non-absent missing assignments are graded as 0% (missing)
- Absent “work” cannot be sent home prior to an expected absence as every assignment is given with instruction and is not considered “busy work.” Thank you for your understanding.

As always, we appreciate your support, and look forward to a great year! If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail at the addresses below.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kathleen Brandt (kmfamera@cps.edu)

Mrs. Peggy Burke (pmburke@cps.edu)