



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, 2023-2024. Along with myself, we will also have a Special Education, Inclusion teacher in our classroom, Mrs. Walsh, for three periods each day. This will be my 14th year teaching at Cassell. I have taught 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade. This will be Mrs. Walsh's 34rd year teaching! She has taught Kindergarten, 2nd grade, and Special Education. We look forward to getting to know all of our new students and families!

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 in our classroom lunch bin each morning, until lunchtime. After lunch, students can put their lunch bags 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 8:00am. Once students enter the classroom, they put their lunches 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, and then we will check the work together, as a class. We will then move into Reading. We will be using the Reading and Writing series, *Collaborative Classroom Being a Reader* and *Collaborative Classroom Being a Writer*. In Reading, we will cover Unit 1: The Classroom Community, and Unit 2: Focus on Making Connections. In Writing, we will cover Unit 1: The Writing Community, and Unit 2: Telling More. We will take a bathroom break during Reading.

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At 10:10am we will begin Math. We only have Math for about 20 mins. before we go to lunch at 10:30am. We will use this time to complete a Math Talk activity.

Mrs. Labelle will pick the students up for recess at 10:30am. The students will go outside for recess, as long as the weather permits. At 10:50am, the students will then go to lunch in the Multi-Purpose Room, until 11:15am.



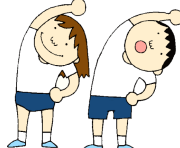


When the students return from recess/lunch at 11:15am, we will continue Math instruction. We have a new Math series this year called, *enVision Mathematics*. We will be starting with Topic 1: Fluently Add and Subtract Within 20. We will take a bathroom break during Math.

After Math, we will begin Social Studies at 12:25pm. We will be studying “Families, Today and In the Past”, in our *My World Interactive* books.

At 12:55pm we will begin Science. We be using the Science curriculum, *Inspire Science*. For the first quarter, we will complete unit 1, “Land and Water”.

Our last period of the day is the students’ Special Class. The Special Class Schedule is pictured below. The students will pack their bookbags before we leave for our Special Class each day; so, they will be ready to line up and go home upon our return.

SPECIAL SCHEDULE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Art 	Art 	P.E. 	THEATER 	THEATER 

DAILY SCHEDULE

8:00-8:10	HOMEROOM
8:10-9:10	READING
9:10-10:10	WRITING
10:10-10:30	MATH
10:30-11:15	RECESS/LUNCH
11:15-12:25	MATH
12:25-12:55	SOCIAL STUDIES
12:55-1:55	SCIENCE
1:55-2:55	SPECIAL CLASS
2:55-3:00	HOMEROOM

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BATHROOM BREAKS

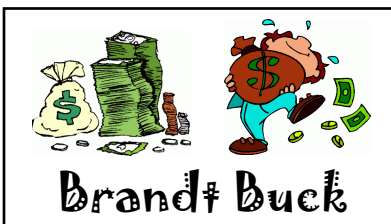
We will take two bathroom breaks a day. Students can always raise their hands and ask to go to the bathroom, when need be, throughout the day. If you would like to send your child to school with a water bottle, please feel free.

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.

BRANDT BUCKS

“Brandt Bucks” is an incentive program I 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 in a safe place inside their desks. 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 entered into Aspen on a weekly basis.

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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. Susan Walsh (sndenardo@cps.edu)