

## Sleep

I know how busy parents can be, but would like to remind you that your child will be able to perform and function wonderfully on a good nights sleep! Try to set a consistent, regular bedtime so that your child will have a more productive, meaningful year! Fact: seven and eight year olds require 10 to 11 hours of sleep per night!!



## Healthy Snacks

Our brains need fuel! Students will have an opportunity to "refuel" with a snack at school. Please remember that a healthy snack (fruit, yogurt, cheese sticks, vegetables, etc) will help your child perform at the best of his/her ability. Any other type of snack needs to be reserved for their lunch box. Please also note that our room is a **no tree nut zone!**

**Water** - Research continues to show the importance of staying hydrated during the day. We are fortunate enough to have a drinking fountain in the classroom that I encourage the students to use regularly. Students may bring in water bottles and will be their responsibility to monitor and take home on a regular basis to be thoroughly washed!



## Homework Folders

These heavy-duty folders go back and forth between home and school **EVERY** day; regardless if there is anything to take home or not. I cannot stress the importance of using this folder as a simple, organizational reminder. If children can learn the importance of organization early, they will feel more comfortable as well as successful. This does a great job of supporting the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade goal of added responsibility.



## Homework Policy

Not all students' strengths are the same, so why should their homework be the same? Homework will be differentiated based on meaning. Homework will not be assigned for the sole purpose of keeping your child busy, but rather will be assigned when the homework is meaningful and beneficial to your student. Homework will be determined based on classroom work. If after the lesson your student appears to need just a bit more practice, I will assign homework that allows your student this additional practice. Because the assignment of homework will be done on more of an individual basis, this could mean that not all students are receiving the same assignments, or that some students might have an assignment while others might not.



Everything you need  
to know about  
**SR. H's** class

Welcome to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade! This brochure will allow you to peer into the window of your child's classroom and explain some of the policies.



Communicate with me:

[thollenbeck@fhps.net](mailto:thollenbeck@fhps.net)

616.493.8970

Class Website:

<http://srhclass.weebly.com>

## Behavior System

### School-wide PBIS

This is our 3<sup>rd</sup> year working with PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports). We use the philosophy of restorative justice through restorative circles and classroom meetings, along with explicit instruction of the model behavior for each area of the school grounds, to set students up for behavioral and academic success. We focus on positive behavior, offering "hero tickets" for students when their behavior is a positive example for both themselves and others. We know that one size does not fit all when it comes to student behavior, and use our resources (education, staff input, district resources) to best meet the needs of every student. Your student is important, and we work to ensure that all students know that they are cared for and valued.

We will continue to use Heroes as acknowledgement.

### House System

As a grade level, we are implementing the Ron Clark Academy House System. Each 2<sup>nd</sup> grader belongs to a house and earns points through daily actions. Occasionally all members of a house get together and participate in activities. There are 4 houses: Altruismo (Givers), Amistad (Friendship), Isibindi (Courage) and Rêveur (Dreamers). Here is a link if you wish to read more about the program's intricacies:

<https://www.rcahousesystem.com/>

## Classroom ticket system

Taking ownership for their choices and feeling heard means something to 2nd graders. This year, after the kiddos receive 10 tickets, they will be allowed to choose from a menu of options. They include:

- Bringing in an object for show & tell
- Helper for the day
- Building Legos with Sr. H. during a recess time
- Using a work pass in which they can not do an assignment and do something else

In addition, I will be keeping a class marble jar. When it reaches a certain level, they will earn a class wide pajama and read day.

**Conflict Resolution** – This is a student-centered method of solving problems of disputes that arise throughout the day. Students are asked to take turns listening to each other's opinions and feelings. At times a mediator is asked to decide situational fairness. Students will, at the beginning of the school year, go over the procedures of conflict resolution, and be expected to follow the guidelines.

**It's going to be a  
fantastic year!**

## Teaching Style

There are no tables or assigned seats in my classroom. My hope in this is that kids feel comfortable in their environment, they have the flexibility to move, and that they help one another as they work. I run my classroom based off a Montessori style. I often will give kids a task and let them work through the problems in the way that works best for them - alone, together, or with me.

### Language Arts

Ada Vista employs the Lucy Calkins Units of Study for Reading and Writing Instruction. These units follow a predictable, 5-part process:

- Each session begins with a **mini lesson**. Kids sit with a long-term partner while in the mini lesson.
- The mini lesson ends with the kids being sent off to their own **independent work**.
- As students work, the teacher **confers with them and leads small groups**.
- Partway through independent work time, the teacher stands and delivers a **mid-workshop teaching point**.
- The workshop ends with a **share**.

