

# Welcome to my Second Grade Class!

Hello Parents! I am Ms. Michaela Moore. I am very excited to have your child in my Second-grade class this year! I know you have many questions about who I am and what my beliefs are as a teacher. I would like for you to read over this and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask me at any time! I am looking forward to watching your child grow both mentally and physically this year!

First, I would like to start off by telling you that I fully understand that each child is different. I believe that there is a standard that children develop. I also understand that each child that comes into my classroom will be at a different level. Development is what each child is programmed to do various stages of life. As a teacher I understand that children do not always hit their developmental stage right when they are suppose to and that is completely okay! I want to do everything I can to help any child who is not on the right level get on the right level. It is important to me to do my very best to find out what each child needs are. As a teacher I want every child to achieve in my classroom. I want you as a parent to know that I will do my very best to have your child ready for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade by the time they leave my classroom! This means that I am willing to change my teaching methods and set individual goals for each child. My goal is to help your child reach all their developmental goals!

In my classroom we are going to be doing a lot of learning! Learning is what children do to help them get to achieve those developmental stages. There are many things that your children will learn this year. They will not only learn to build on the knowledge that they learned in kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade, but they will also learn new things to help further their understanding

of the world around them. I am also looking forward to them learning more about what they are good at physically too.

With knowing I know each child is different. I want you to know that I know each child's family is different and I am prepared to put that into consideration when I make plans to help each child with their developmental progress. This is something I hope you as their parent and I as their teacher can work together and come to an understanding, so I can get a planned set up that is right just for your child! Each child learns differently! I was always one of those students who could have used a unique way than just the normal way of learning. I have hopes to find the way that works best for each student and try to incorporate that into my classroom! With all this in mind, there are a few areas of developed that I would like to focus on and try to incorporate into my classroom. These would be cognitive, socioemotional, and physical. I will touch on all of these in my teaching methods.

First, I would like to explain cognitive development. I am sure you have a parent have noticed that your child can understand time. As a class I want help them grow on this. I want to let them know when we are doing things and about how long we will be doing things. This is important when it comes to them learning how to time manage. I see this as one of the more important skills that can be taught without them knowing I am doing it. This is sometimes one of the easiest ways to teach something. They are learning to be young adults at this stage of life weather we know it or not. They love to play games, talk with their friends, they want to make projects, and at this stage in their lives they are learning how to understand that someone else might not agree with them but that is okay. They are learning how to do things on their own and I want to help them become more independent.

In my classroom I plan on doing a lot more group work on things than in their earlier years. I want them to get experience learning from not only me but their peers also. With that being said I also understand that they could get less out of this. So, I will be giving them time to work it out on their own first. I think a lot of kids learn math by doing it themselves. I plan on giving them a lot of problems and even games that will help them learn how to do the math. I will give them instructions than give them an opportunity to do it themselves. I want you to understand that they are becoming more reliant on their friends and I understand this. I am going to try and give them time with peers, themselves, and I teaching them. Their will be days where we spend more time in some areas than others.

Next, I want to help your child with their socioemotional development. I understand that this is just as important as any math problem I will ever teach your child. If you haven't already noticed they have started to come home and talk about the same friend(s). There is no way I could even began to know how to teach your child how to pick friends or how to learn that if someone doesn't like them that the world will not come to an end. However, I do plan on helping them as much as I can. Your child has a strong self-need to be included in every group that they can.

They have learned that there is a right and wrong way to act. They have also learned that people are different for many assorted reasons. They like to feel like they are responsible for something. They have also begun to learn that boys and girls are different. There are a few ways I want to try and incorporate this into my classroom.

First thing is I want to have a class pet that each child will take turns doing things for him/her. This is something that helps them learn responsibly. I will also have other jobs each week that each student will have the opportunity to do. I want them to feel as if they accomplished something when they do an excellent job each week. I also want them to understand that each

person is different, and just because they are not the same as you does not mean that you can not be friends with them. Sometimes children just need a little extra push. In my classroom I want them to work with their friends but I will also be putting them in groups myself, so they can have the chance to get to know each of their classmates. I also understand that each one is going to come with their own personality. I want to build on this and help them understand who they are. This is why we will have a almost weekly journal writing of what they did over the weekend or I will give them a writing prompt and let them write about it and let them see how they feel about it. This will help me as a teacher and you as their parent to get a better understanding of who they are as a person and where they stand at their social and emotional state. I can not wait to watch your child grow and change over this year!

The last thing I want talk about their physical development! As an educator I think that 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and up lose some valuable physical active time. If you have noticed they have a lot of energy here lately! They have wanted to learn a new sport or started bouncing off the walls when they are stuck in the house all day because it rained. At this stage they have become very good at their fine motor skills like holding their panicle, being able to hold game pieces, and much more. They are also becoming better at their large gross motor skills, such as, kicking a ball, and jumping. They do not always need someone else to play with to play with for them to go outside and play anymore. I want to help them with this extra energy in my classroom.

The setup of my classroom will reflect my understanding of their extra energy. I will be setting up desk that students can chose to work at each day. I will have a section for sitting in normal chairs, one with exercise balls so the children will be sitting and getting some energy out at the same time, I would also like a few desks where they may stand up if they would like. I think this will help get some of their ants out of their pants. I also would like to schedule a 5-10-minute

brain break every day. This will be a time that every student if they wish will get to stand up and move around. I will find different things for them to dance to or just stand up and do some wiggling and exercise. I think this is just as important to their development as learning how to write and everything else.

Overall, I am very excited about this school year and cannot wait to meet all my children! I think that it is important to keep you as updated on your child's progress as I possibly can! Each one of the children in my class are equally important to me and I want to see them succeed in life. If you have any further questions or at any point during the year, please let me know and I will be happy to go further in depth with you! It is going to be a wonderful year!

Sincerely,

Michaela Moore