

Dear Second Grade Superstar and Family,

Hello! My name is Mrs. Howley and I will be your teacher this upcoming school year. I hope that you had a nice and relaxing summer break and that you are ready for all of the fun and excitement that second grade will bring!

Let me tell you a little bit about myself. I grew up in this area and went to Barclay Elementary, Warwick Elementary, Tamanend Middle School, and Central Bucks East. When I finished high school I knew I wanted to be a teacher. I studied for my degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education degree from Bloomsburg University. I have always loved school and learning, so I went on to get my Masters in Education from Gratz College and I completed more graduate class courses from Colorado State. This year will be my 19th year teaching in Central Bucks, and my first year back in second grade after 10 years of teaching fifth grade!

When I am not in school, I love to spend time with, Mr. Howley, my son Collin, and my daughter Claire, who attend Jamison Elementary. My family has a shore house in Sea Isle City, NJ, so you can see me down there most of the summer, enjoying the beach and the water. I also like going to sports games, like the Phillies and the Eagles, so we will make some fun projects in class to help us cheer on the sports teams! Another thing I like to do is dance. When I was younger, I went to Kelly Richards School of Dance, so I have had lots of practice. Finally, I love to travel and my favorite place to visit is Disney World!

The first few weeks of school will be spent building our classroom community and establishing a culture of respect, responsibility, collaboration, and citizenship. We will have a lot of fun in second grade, and we also work very hard. As a second grader, you will continue to improve your reading skills and learn a lot of important reading strategies to help you understand the awesome books that we will read! In Everyday Math, you will strengthen your fast fact fluency, explore time, money, measurement, and problem solving. You will also spend a lot of time this year learning how to write longer sentences and paragraphs. Finally, prepare yourself for some creative social studies activities and some exciting science experiments throughout the year.

Central Bucks provides the supplies essential for learning; however, some students like to bring their own supplies to school. Below are the supplies that I am asking you to purchase and bring on the first day of school, that may be more helpful to you in our classroom – please make sure to label all items.

- 2 vinyl 2-pocket folders (no prongs)
- 3, 2-pocket folders: 1 orange, 1 green, and 1 yellow
- 1 pencil case
- 2 marble composition books
- 1 sock/dry eraser
- 1 pair of head phones (labeled in a Ziploc bag)

This year, in order to save families time and money, the Central Bucks School District has already purchased the following supplies for each student; however, you are always welcome to bring in your own personal items.

- Crayola colored pencils
- Crayons
- Pencils
- Crayola fine-tip colored markers
- Glue sticks

Our classroom could also use a few items to keep us tidy and healthy each day. If you are willing to donate any of the following, it would be greatly appreciated:

- ❑ Containers of sanitizing wipes and/or hand sanitizer
- ❑ 2 Boxes of tissues

Thank you in advance for taking the time to accumulate these supplies. Your support with organization will help the school year run smoothly.

Snack

Please pack a small, healthy snack (ex: fruit, crackers, cereal bar, etc.) and water or juice every day (including the first day of school) for snack.

Important Dates to Remember

Bridge Valley will host an **Open House** in August. Specific times for this event will be made available soon.

Back to School Night

Parents and guardians, please join me on Wednesday, September 7, 2022 for my Back To School Night, where I will share what to expect for the school year.

First Day of School Project

The last thing I would like you to bring on the first day of school will require you to use your creativity. Please cover a cereal box with paper and decorate it in a way that will tell the class about you. You may use pictures, drawings, clipart, magazines, or anything you'd like. Make sure you make your name large, clear, and decorative so we know who you are. Please put at least one item inside the box that would tell us something about you. (Where you went on vacation this summer, an award you received, something you are proud of, etc).

Parents, I would like to welcome you also to second grade. I am looking forward to an exciting year with you and your student. Although I will only have your child for a short time in this trip through life, I hope to make a contribution that will last a lifetime. In hopes of getting to know your child better, please take some time to complete the FORMS questionnaire that is located on my teacher website. Thank you for your cooperation and support. I look forward to meeting and working with you this year! See you on our first day of school!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Howley
kjhowley@cbsd.org