

Back-to-School
Information Packet
Second Grade



Trinity Christian School
2016-2017

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Proverbs 15:28 "The heart of the righteous studies how to answer."

Study Habits:

- **Listening and following directions**
- Reflecting a desire to learn in body language and eye contact
- Organizational skills
- Working well independently
- Neat, careful, orderly, and complete work

Behavior and Character:

- Obeys Promptly (Heb 13:17)
- Obeys Cheerfully (1 Thess. 5:18)
- Exercises diligence in work (Eph. 6:6,7)
- Displays kindness and compassion (Eph. 4:29,32)
- Speaks with honesty and edification (Eph. 4:25)
- Exercises self-control (Prov. 25:28)
- Displays order (1 Cor. 14:40)

Grading Scale

(as appearing on report cards)

94-100 = Outstanding (O)

83-93 = Satisfactory (S)

[92-93 = S+; 85-91 = S; 83-84 = S-]

75-83 = Needs Improvement (N)

0-74 = Unsatisfactory (U)

Academic Subjects

Bible

Our Bible curriculum focuses on Old Testament characters and events beginning at the life of Samuel and going through to the end of the Old Testament. As we learn about the many kings of Israel and Judah, some righteous and others ungodly, we will see the importance of “finishing well” and remaining faithful and obedient to God in all circumstances. The kings, prophets, and other biblical characters that we learn about are a wonderful opportunity to remind the children of the practical consequences of sin and also of the grace of God in the lives of His people. Students will be tested on this material periodically throughout the school year; study guides will be sent home a week before such in a test in order to give students adequate time to study.

The students will also have a weekly memory verse, which will be tested orally on Friday or the date indicated at the top of the card on which the verse is found. Memory verse books are brought home each night and should be returned to school each day.

Students will be graded/evaluated in the following areas of Bible:

- *Recitation of weekly memory verse- 50%*
- *Tests- 50%*

English

Shurley Grammar focuses upon grammar and sentence structure. Students learn about kinds of sentences as well as how to classify each part of speech in a sentence. They also learn punctuation and capitalization rules. The Shurley Method utilizes group songs and chants to help the students memorize definitions, especially the parts of speech and functions of words within a sentence. Each skill learned becomes a solid foundation for the next, due to the curriculum’s emphasis on repetition and extensive use of new skills.

Students will also be assigned a couple of book reports throughout the year. The style of the book report and book selection for each will vary. Students will have a month’s notice for the assignment and will be given clear instructions as to my expectations for the assignment. Also included, as part of the initial issuing of the assignment, is a timeline to follow so that the completing of the report is not crammed into the last week or few days before it is due.

Students will be graded/ evaluated in the following areas of English:

- *Grammar worksheets- 60%*
- *Writing Assignments- 40%*

Math

We are using the A Beka series with six larger themes/units that include many visual images to help students engage in and learn the concepts better. The 2nd grade math curriculum covers the following areas:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Counting | Graphs |
| Place Value | Calendar |
| Addition/ Subtraction | Time |
| Problem Solving | Thermometer |
| Geometry | Fractions |
| Logical Thinking | Measurement |
| Money | Multiplication/Division |

Since memorization of basic addition and subtraction facts is essential, your child should be using flash cards at home for daily review. I am asking for **25 minutes of review each week—that's just 5 minutes a day!** In class we will be taking speed drills, and children are able to practice basic facts using other methods such as *Around the World* and other oral math exercises. Later in the year, I will ask the students to begin reviewing multiplication and division cards; this will coincide with learning multiplication and division during class.

Students will be graded/evaluated in the following areas of Math:

- *Workbook pages-33%*
- *Tests-34%*
- *Speed drills- 33%*

Reading

The 2nd grade Reading curriculum is made up of a Bob Jones reader and workbook that will be supplemented with the books *The Long Way to a New Land*, *The Courage of Sarah Noble*, *Carolina's Courage*, and *Sarah Plain and Tall*.

The importance of oral reading is invaluable. Therefore, I would encourage you to take time each day to have your child read aloud to you. This does not have to take a lot of time- in fact, if you're creative, you can think of ways to accomplish this while you're doing other things. Consistent practice will help to build smooth and accurate oral reading while involving you in the process.

In order to encourage our students to be avid readers, all the students will participate in the accelerated reader program. This is a program that allows students to read books in or outside of the classroom and then take computer tests based on the books that they have read. Each test earns the student a certain number of points based upon the point value of the book combined with how the student scores on the test. The program allows students to be challenged in the area of reading at their highest level, while gaining their interest in the reading of classic and quality literature. The students are given relative independence in the reading of and selecting of these books. However, they are required to earn at least **10 points** every quarter. If they fail to do so, their reading grade will drop accordingly. Accelerated reader is worth 15% of their reading grade.

We will also be having weekly vocabulary quizzes. These quizzes will range in difficulty and format. Your child will begin the year with the lists of vocabulary words stapled into their spelling/vocabulary notebooks, or they will have the words and definitions copied into their spelling/vocab notebooks.

Students will be graded/evaluated in the following areas of Reading:

- *Oral fluency- 15%*
- *Reading/ Phonics workbook pages- 20%*
- *Accelerated reader-15%*
- *Vocabulary quizzes-25%*
- *Comprehension- 25%*

Spelling

For the subject of Spelling, the students use lists developed by the *Spelling Workout* program. The children will have a weekly list of words that highlights a particular phonetic rule. They will receive the new list each Monday and will be tested on the list each Friday. When there is no school on Friday, tests will be given on Thursday. The workbook will be completed in class and is designed to reinforce the spelling of each week's Spelling words. Each night during the week, the Spelling notebook is to come home, and students should study the words for that week. Also, with the exception of the first and second lists, students will be given one or more words from previous lists as review words on the test. Therefore, the students should look over any "trouble words" from previous lists before each test is taken. Students will also be given a spelling grade on at least 10 non-spelling related assignments each quarter. This is to ensure that we are teaching the students the overall importance of good spelling habits.

Students will be graded/ evaluated in the following areas of Spelling:

- *Weekly tests-50%*
- *Everyday assignments-25%*
- *Workbook pages-25%*

Handwriting

Handwriting is based out of the *Zaner Bloser* curriculum. Currently, we are working through the print portion and in the latter part of this year we will begin cursive. Handwriting exercises are evaluated based on the neatness, size, shape, spacing, and slant of the letters. The handwriting grade is based on daily handwriting assignments as well as various other non-handwriting related assignments over the course of the quarter, including at least two math pages. Again, the aim of these other assignments is to teach the students the importance of good handwriting in all their work.

- *Daily assignments- 50%*
- *Everyday assignments- 50%*

Science

Science in first and second grades will be a two year cycle based in the information provided through the Bob Jones Science curriculum. Year one will cover topics related to Life Science based in the concept "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made," while year two will cover topics related to Physical and Earth Science based in the concept "The earth is the Lord's." We are very excited about this new approach to science as we are convinced that it will instill a love for scientific inquiry and study in these young students through hands on discovery and research. Safety and Health topics have also been added to our curriculum, also on a two year rotation- with Safety covered in Year 1 and Health covered in Year 2.

We have sought to lay out this curriculum in a way that will challenge students to observe and learn about the world that God has created and would also give them a genuine desire to explore and investigate. We would encourage you to periodically ask your child what they are “doing” in Science class, thereby reinforcing the desire to learn about our great Creator and the things that He has created.

Students will be evaluated as follows in science:

- Tests/ Quizzes- 30%
- Activity pages/ activities- 70%

History

During the 2nd grade year, we look forward to an exciting time of studying the ancient civilizations. This year our topics will include *Ancient Egypt*, *Ancient Greece*, *Ancient Rome* and the *Middle Ages*. Each unit, structured around Veritas Press’ history curriculum as well as a student-level book on the time period, will include a work packet, small projects, quizzes, a cumulative test, and a culminating “Ancient ____ Day.” If you have any information/resources about any of these subjects, please share them at the time we are studying that particular civilization.

Students will be evaluated in the following areas of History:

- Tests/ Quizzes- 50%
- Work Packets-50%

Specials

Physical Education

Mrs. Dolce (Wednesday)

Art

Mrs. Mladenovic- (Thursday)

Music

Mrs. Cunningham- (Friday)

Homework Policy

Completion and return of homework assignments should be taken seriously by students and parents. Please guide your child in developing good “homework habits” and emphasize to them the importance of taking responsibility for their assignments. Please remember that it is **not** your job to put your child’s name on their homework, correct it, or put it back in their folder and/or book bag. The discipline of completing an assignment and being responsible to turn it in is, in one respect, more important than the content of the homework itself. Homework that is not completed or turned in will be marked accordingly. The student will spend their recess time completing homework that was not done the night before.

Things to do every night:

1. Check homework notebook and sign; check homework folder.
2. Review addition/subtraction flash cards.
3. Review Spelling and vocabulary words and memory verse.
4. Read at least 20 minutes of accelerated reader book.

Birthdays

Students with birthdays during the school year may bring in “goodies” to celebrate during our morning snack time (10:10 to 10:20). Please be sure to send in any extra items such as napkins or cups if necessary. We will celebrate all summer birthdays at the end of the school year.

Communication

Openness between parent and teacher is vital to establishing an effective teamwork approach to educating students. I want to be able to support you in your God-given role as parent. In light of this, I invite you to share any suggestions, concerns, questions, etc. with me directly. It is easier to deal with a concern or struggle at the beginning, rather than when it has had time to grow or become an impediment to your child’s learning or relationship with me. The simplest way to contact me on a regular (or as-needed basis) is by a note in your child’s homework notebook. Homework notebooks are checked every day for communication. I also want to make sure that your child is letting you know of their responsibilities and what is going on in our classroom and at school. That is why it is important that your child’s notebook be signed *daily*.

If you need to speak to me, the BEST TIME is always after school at the time of pick-up. If this is not feasible, you may email me. I would request that matters only of a “serious and important” nature be discussed with me in the evening by phone. If you are involved in a carpool and want to discuss something with me as soon as possible, please put a note in your son/daughter’s book for me to call you on a break that day. I would like to accommodate your needs and discuss your concerns as much as possible!

I thank God for the privilege of serving you by working with your children each day, and I look forward to a year of working together for their good and God’s glory.