

Grade 2 Parent Orientation

Welcome, Incoming Grade 2 Parents!
Monday,
June 15, 2009





Goals for tonight

- Welcome you all to the Morse Family!
- Give an overview of:
 - Transition process grade 1-2
 - The program in grades 2 & 3
 - A day in the life of a second grader
- Answer initial questions
- Inspire more questions
- Encourage you to reach out with questions or concerns

The Grade 2 Teaching Team

○ Classroom Teachers:

- Anne Bakala
- Christine Calvert
- Tobi Fradkin
- Xiomara Kluge (DL)
- Michelle Marx*
- Christina Miles
- Tonya Richardson
- Brenda Sutherland
- Sandra Tavares (DL)

Typical Class
Size= 21-22
students



The Mission at Morse

- To make sure that students:
 - Are Curious, Critical Thinkers
 - Become Life Long Learners
 - Develop as Readers & Writers
 - Mathematicians & Scientists
 - Are Respectful, Responsible & Empathic
 - Feel that they belong to our community



The Grade 2 Teaching Team

- Reading Specialists:
 - Jennifer DalCeredo
 - Pam Krafft-Weldon
- English as a Second Language:
 - Jessica Etman
 - Ana Ocasio-Rios
- Learning Specialists/Special Education:
 - Kathy McDermott
 - Alia Yeater



Two familiar faces

Two wonderful and key support service staff are the same and provide enormous comfort to our new second graders:

- Ms. Regla Cayon, Social Worker
- Mrs. Yvonne Feliciano, Psychologist



The Morse Office Staff

Office & Support Staff

- Mrs. Kathleen Carey, School Nurse
- Mrs. Kathy Fischer, Secretary to the Principal
- Ms. Ysmelda Rondon, Bilingual Secretary
- Mr. Jose Quijada, Head Custodian

The Challenge Program

- Mrs. Elisabeth Hickey, Gifted & Talented Teacher
- Literacy-based, grade 3-5 programs:
 - Social Studies/Research
 - Reading and word study
- Entrance Process begins Spring, grade 3
- Math enrichment
 - Offered Grades 2 & 3
 - Pull out program & Imbedded program
- In-Class enrichment & Projects

Transition from John Paulding

- Spring Meetings about program
- Class Placement (June)
 - Completed at John Paulding
 - Goal: Balanced, productive groups
 - Parent & teacher input combined
 - Students have "learning buddies"
- Articulation Meetings (June)
 - Teacher to teacher discussions
- Files & Records (Summer)
- Families & Teachers notified (August)



Grade 2: Academic Growth

Grade 2 students:

- Become more independent
 - Homework Monday-Thursday
 - Nightly reading & Reading Journal
- Continue to learn to read, but prepare to read to learn
- Learn more about word families and patterns in their writing
- Continue to build on Math, Science & Social Studies

A Day in Second Grade



- The day begins at 8:30am (drop off starts at 8:15) and ends at 3:15pm.
- Announcements & Pledge 8:40 am
- Students are marked tardy after 8:40am
- Breakfast is available in the cafeteria from 8:15-8:30
 - New: Breakfast and Books Program

The Grade 2 Schedule



Period	<i>Start</i>	<i>Finish</i>	Monday
MM	8:30	8:45	Morning Meeting
1	8:45	9:30	Flex
2	9:30	10:15	Reader's W
3	10:15	11:00	Writer's W
4	11:00	11:45	Lunch
5	11:50	1:00	Math
6	1:00	1:20	Extra Math
7	1:20	2:05	Science/SS
8	2:05	2:50	PE

The Morse
Schedule:

- 5-day (M-F) Schedule
- Most classes are broken up into 45-minute blocks of time
- Students have time to pack up before dismissal

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All students receive 90 minutes of core literacy instruction each day. This is structured in one block, with 45 minutes dedicated to Reader's Workshop and 45 minutes dedicated to Writer's Workshop.

English Language Arts (ELA)

- Students in grade 2 are still learning to read. By grade 3, they will start reading to learn.
- We use a balanced literacy approach, which includes:
 - Guided Reading & Guided Writing
 - Reading & Writing Conferences
 - Independent Reading & Writing Practice
 - Daily reading homework and writing practice
 - Word work study (Spelling)

English Language Arts (ELA)

Guided Reading:

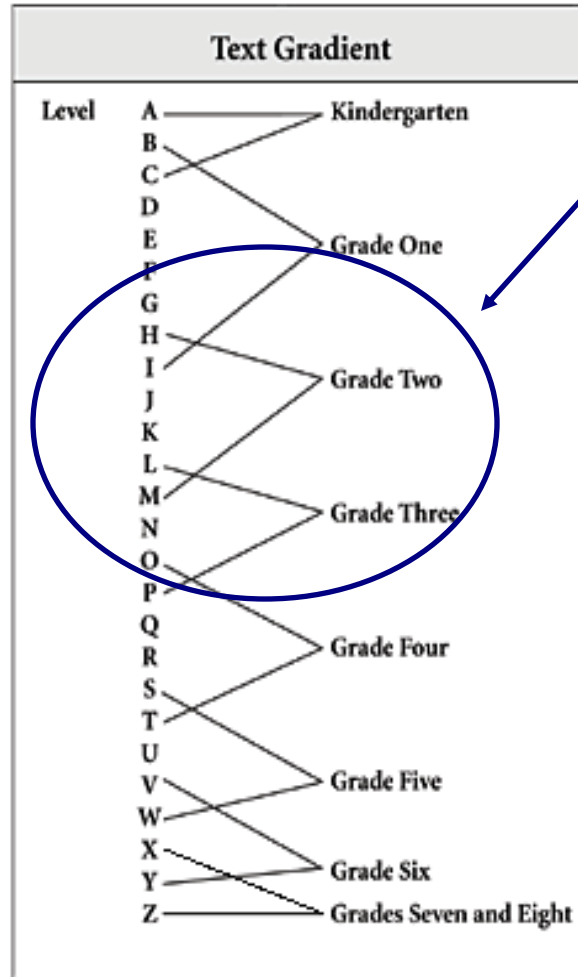
- Teaching approach designed to help individual readers systematically learn to read challenging texts over time
- Teacher instructs groups of children using texts at their instructional level
- The teacher uses the text to help the children expand what they know how to do as readers: access meaning, language, and print of the text.

English Language Arts (ELA)

Independent Reading:

- After the whole group & guided group sessions, students practice strategies in books at their *independent* level.
- Research asserts that students should read at least 60-130 minutes each day at their independent level to maintain reading level.
- Fountas & Pinnell levels can help identify “just right” books for students.

English Language Arts (ELA)



Rough target range for grade 2:
Levels H-M.

Several students read above or below that range.

Several factors are considered when assigning levels.

Note: It is more challenging for students to move up reading levels as texts become more challenging.

The Grade 2 Program



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“Flex” time is used for additional independent reading, read aloud books, or word work (spelling). Flex time can also be the time when students get intervention or enrichment support.

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All students receive 70 minutes of direct math instruction (recommended amount for Growing with Math).

In addition, there are 20 minutes set aside for numeration and problem solving work.

One day per week, students have "Guided Math."



Mathematics

- Students continue to follow the Growing with Math Program
- Key Ideas & Skills
 - Number Sense & Place Value
 - Addition, Subtraction & Multiplication
 - Concept of division
 - Geometry
 - Measurement (connects to Science)
 - Algebraic Thinking

Mathematics

○ Guided Math

- 45 minutes, 1 time per week
- Teacher works with small groups
- Students play games and explore problems at their level to enrich or reinforce concepts taught

○ Problem Solving

- Problem solving method teaches "process standards"
- Exemplars program

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Students will receive 45 minutes daily of either Science or Social Studies.

Teachers in grade 2 and 3 go in depth with one unit. So, they will spend several weeks on a Science unit, then switch to a Social Studies unit.



Science Program

- Science 21, BOCES
- Units include:
 - Using tools to measure changes in our world
 - Observe & measure changes in energy
 - Observe & measure changes in living things
 - Sunflowers & Crayfish
 - Observe & measure changes in the environment



Social Studies Program

- Social Studies/ELA, BOCES
- Online Curriculum
- Topics include:
 - Communities
 - Understanding the government
 - US States
 - Map skills
 - US Symbols

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Students will take either 1 or two specials classes each day.

Specials include Physical Education (PE), Art, Music, Spanish & Technology/Library Science.

Specials Classes

○ Physical Education (PE)

- Mr. Ray Farrell & Mrs. Deborah Brennen
- Grades 2 & 3: 45 minutes, 3 times/week
- Focus: **wellness**, activity, basic skills & confidence



○ Art

- Mrs. Susan Barrett
- Grades 2 & 3: 45 minutes, 1 time per week
- Focus: the craft and inspiration of various cultures & great artists



Specials Classes (cont.)

- Spanish as a Foreign Language
 - Ms. Jennifer Klausner, instructor
 - Grade 2: 45 minutes, 1 time per week
 - Grade 3: 45 minutes, 2 times per week
- Music
 - Mrs. Joy Giuseffi, instructor
 - Grades 2 & 3: 45 minutes, 1 time per week
 - Big Spring concert along with smaller, in-school performances

Specials Classes (cont.)

- **NEW** Library/Technology Basics class in grade 2
 - 45 minutes, 1 time per week
 - Incorporates technology & media literacy in addition to traditional library sciences. Prepares kids for grades 2+
 - Students learn library basics, basic research and search skills, keyboarding and more.



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Lunch and Recess!

All second graders have lunch and recess at the same time.

Groups of 4 or 5 classes eat together for 22 minutes and play for 22 minutes.

Recess at Morse

- Supervision
 - Lunch Aides & Teaching Assistants
 - Training
- Options for students
 - Peaceful Playground Activities (PE)
 - Play Structure
 - Optional activities (ideas welcome!)
- Winter FLIP Program
- Parent-Led Alternatives
 - Literature Circles





Traditions & Events

- Each month we have 1-2 major events
- Special Traditions & Events:
 - Halloween Parade
 - Heritage Week/Ishanghi Dancers
 - Literature Day & Celebrations
 - Field Day in June
 - Family Book Fair

Homework in grade 2

- NPSTA guidelines of 10 minutes per grade to reinforce concepts & skills
 - 2nd grade 20 minutes of homework {2x10=20 minutes}
- Reading every night - 20 additional minutes
 - Reading Log
 - Reader's Response



School Values: "Morse Code"

- This year, staff & parents identified core school values
 - Single, uniform message to students across the school
 - Unifies character education goals
 - Discipline can align with these values and have productive, positive, age appropriate focus
 - Families can support values development



School Values "Morse Code"

We identified 4 Core Values and will call them our "Morse Code:"

- RESPECT
- RESPONSIBILITY
- EMPATHY
- LOVE OF LEARNING



School Values: "Morse Code"

- Next year, we will develop students' understanding of these values through monthly programming that focuses on one goal at a time.
- Programming will include:
 - Whole school assemblies
 - Classroom meeting lessons (45 minutes per week)
 - School-wide rewards program for reinforcement
 - Home-school link with key language & calendar of things to do at home

Connecting K-5

We designed our program to fit with the other elementary schools

- Students will transition naturally to the WI CARES program.



- The program incorporates Second Step, the program used at Tappan Hill & John Paulding.



Parent Involvement

- We have been blessed with very positive and productive parent involvement this year!
- Next year, we hope to continue several things that were new this year:
 - Lunchtime literature circles
 - Curriculum celebrations to honor student work
 - Increased attendance at school events and new evening concerts
 - Revised calendar for next year





Parent Involvement

- We also hope to expand and increase parent involvement
- Summer/Fall options include:
 - Come help to build bookshelves
 - Come help paint a mural in the school
 - Come help organize the Guided Reading closet
- Next year, look out for the Parent Involvement section of the monthly newsletter for more opportunities



Communication

- Monthly School Newsletter
 - Programs
 - Academics
 - Upcoming events
- Email flyers & Paper flyers
 - All office communication is posted on web site (Morse page)
- Email & Phone

Learn More

- Please know that I welcome feedback and questions anytime
 - Email me at mfitzgerald@tufsd.org
 - Call Morse School 914-631-4144



Morse Values Statement

RESPECT

- We make good choices and do our best.
- We show that everyone is important by using positive words and actions.
- We celebrate the uniqueness of each member of our Morse family.

RESPONSIBILITY

- We take responsibility for own actions.
- We take care of the environment, the school, and the things that we share.
- When we work together, we can make a real difference.



Morse Values Statement

LEARNING

- We believe that we all can learn and grow.
- When we learn together as a team, we can achieve greater goals.
- We take risks and learn from both our successes and mistakes.

EMPATHY

- We try to understand and think about each other's feelings.
- We value others, their feelings and their rights.
- We care for each member of our Morse family and treat each other in a way we want to be treated.