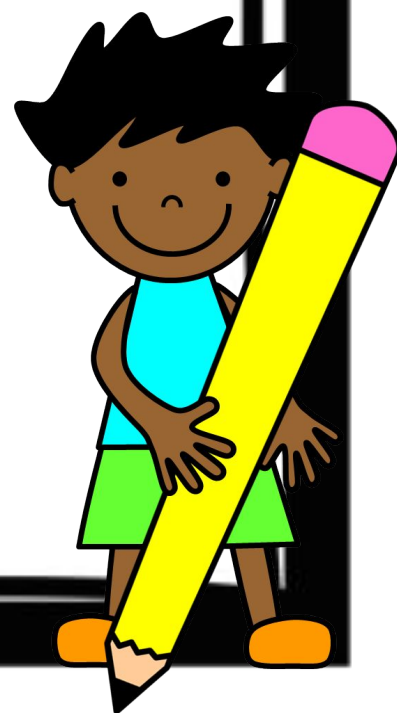
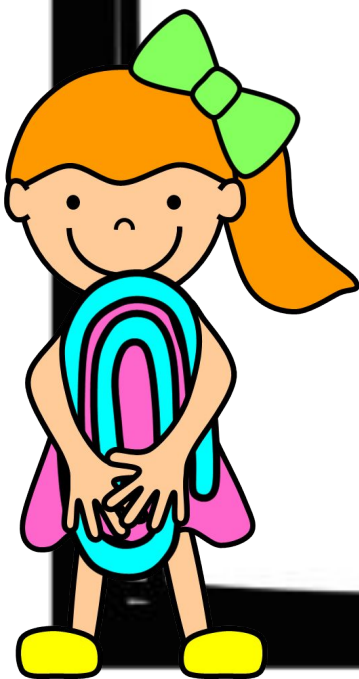




Hephatha

Second Grade  
Handbook

Mrs. Barcus



# A Note From the Teacher...

Congratulations! You are the parent of a second-grader here at Hephatha Lutheran School. My name is Mrs. Kaylie Barcus and I will be your child's teacher this year! This year will be my fourth year at Hephatha Lutheran and being a part of the Hephatha family has truly been a blessing! I am so excited to see and experience what God has in store for all of us this year.

You will be amazed at how much your child will grow this year. Your child will continue to learn about Jesus and He will have an impact in your child's life. It is a special joy of mine to see a child embrace Christ's love and see how He changes his/her world. In Kindergarten and First Grade, your child has had the seeds of reading and writing planted, and during second grade, those seeds will grow and blossom, making your child an accomplished reader and writer. You will see changes in your child's thinking and the change will be dramatic!

I look forward to working with you all and getting to know you as brothers and sisters in Christ! God's blessings on you and our second-grade class this upcoming year.

In Christ,  
Mrs. Kaylie Barcus

## Contact Information

Mrs. Kaylie Barcus  
School Number: 714-637-0887 ext. 121  
Email: kbarcus@hephatha.net  
Website: hephathagrade2.weebly.com



Please feel free to reach out to me anytime you need to! If it is not urgent, please jot a note or an email to me and I will respond as soon as possible. You may call the school as well. In return, I will contact you by email, phone, or in-person if there is something I would like to discuss.

## Newsletter and Calendar

My weekly newsletter will be sent to you every Monday by email. Book forms, monthly calendars, and much more can also be found on this site at [hephathagrade2.weebly.com](http://hephathagrade2.weebly.com).

## Homework and Testing

**Homework:** I strongly encourage students to read 15-20 minutes with or to a parent each night. This will not only help in their vocabulary growth but in knowledge, creativity, and exploration as well. The students will have a main subject assignment each day, except for Fridays. Mondays will be spelling and memory work, Tuesday's will be reading, Wednesday's writing, and Thursday's IXL math. On shorter weeks, the writing assignment is omitted. When students are given an IXL assignment, they must spend a minimum of 20 minutes on it and it will be used as a partial participation grade. On IXL, you may see "yellow stars" next to a math concept. If the star is highlighted, please have your student focus on it first as that will be the concept(s) we are covering in our math unit. Any book reports or projects done at home should be completed by the student and will be assigned well in advanced. All homework worksheets will be sent home in your student's folder on Monday and is mandatory for a participation grade. All homework will be due by Friday of the same week!

**Testing:** All tests for the upcoming week will be listed in the weekly newsletter sent home as well as on the website. Spelling tests will be given on Friday (or Thursday if there is no school on Friday). The first 15 words on a Spelling test will be their spelling grade and the challenge words will be bonus points in which they can receive tally marks (incentive) for towards a prize. Memory tests will be given verbally every Friday.

## Parent Volunteers

I am always excited and pleased to have helpers! With this in mind, please feel free to reach out to me if you would like to help out with any of the following or more:

- ★ At-home prep/copies + donating supplies
- ★ Field trips (please keep in mind that some field trips only allow a limited amount of chaperones)
  - ★ Planning class parties + events\*
  - ★ After-school activities\*
  - ★ Other\*

# Procedure Reminders

To help your student succeed in every way, to the best of their ability, please remember the following:

- ★ Please be on time. Doors open at 8:10am. **Students will be marked tardied if they are not here by 8:20am!**
- ★ Please have your child wear the proper school uniform. Remember, Wednesdays and special holiday chapels require chapel attire.
- ★ Students also need to bring a closed water bottle to have at their desks. Please make sure the bottle is **filled with water only and has their name on it.**
- ★ Second grade is dismissed at 3:00pm. Please pick up your child at their classroom by 3:00pm. **If your child is not picked up by 3:10pm, they will be sent to daycare.** If you are not picking up your child after school, please send in a signed note or an email giving someone else permission as I cannot release him/her without it.
- ★ Please have any library books and take-home folders brought back to school each day.
- ★ Every Monday, a folder will go home with the previous week's work and the current week's homework. Please check over these papers and see how your child is doing.
- ★ Each Monday, I will be taking Church/Sunday School attendance as well. If you do not have a home church, Hephatha Lutheran is happy to open its doors to you!

Please reach out to me with any questions. I am happy to help!

# Classroom Management

## Expectations:

1. Listen when your teacher is talking.
2. Follow directions quickly.
3. Respect yourself, respect others, and respect your school.
4. Raise your hand to speak or stand.
5. Be safe. Be kind. Be honest. Be like Jesus.

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## Positive Reinforcement/Redirection:

In our classroom, for independent incentives, the students are stars on a personal chart for positive behavior and as a learning incentive. Once a kid reaches 25 stars, they will be able to choose a prize from the prize box. We will also have a ball jar for whole group teamwork. Students, as a whole, have the opportunity to earn balls into their ball jar from the teacher's jar. Once their jar is full, they will be given an in-class reward! For any students that are struggling in regards to behavior, or are needing a break due to it, they will fill out a "Think Sheet" as a reflection on how to improve and discuss it with me as well as their parent.

## Church & Sunday School

We sincerely hope that you and your family worship regularly. Church and Sunday School attendance is recorded on Mondays, or Tuesdays if there is no school on Monday. Our class will be singing at some of Hephatha's church services during the school year. It is important for your child to be there, but please let me know if it is not possible beforehand.

## School Chapel

Every Wednesday, we will have a worship service in the church. Chapel attire is required. Chapel offerings for special outreach projects are always welcomed.

## Memory Work

Memory Work - Children will recite memory to me on Friday. Memory work will be available online every day. A memory/spelling half sheet is sent home every Monday as well to study from.

## Spelling Lists & Tests

Word lists are available on the classroom website on Mondays when they are given in the classroom. Tests are given on Fridays or Thursdays when there is no school on Fridays. The first 15 words are the graded words. If students are needing or wanting a challenge, they are strongly encouraged to practice the Challenge Words. Each Challenge word written correctly on the test will count as 1 point towards a prize from the prize box (example: 5 Challenge words correct = 5 points). A Spelling/Memory half sheet is sent home every Monday as well to study from.

# Other Important Reminders...

## Lunch and Snack Break

Lunch - please have your child bring their lunch to school. Cater Tots is also an option for ordering hot lunch. Please contact the school office if you are interested in ordering Cater Tots for more information.

Snack Break - Please no junk food. Proper nutrition habits are very important to each child's health, well-being, and focus in the classroom.

## Birthdays

Invitations - If you are inviting the ENTIRE class, invitations may be distributed at school. If not, please mail them.

Special Treats - Your child may bring a treat for each student. **Please let me know ahead of time if you plan to do this as we may have some food allergies.** If your child has a special dietary restriction or allergy and wish to keep a box of treats on hand at school for these occasions, I am more than happy to store these for your child!

## Health and Safety

Illness - Please call the office or email me about any illnesses. Please do not send your child to school if he/she is sick.

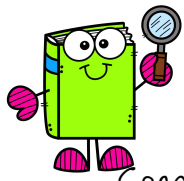
Tardies - Please have your child at school early enough to be seated by 8:20am. Consistent tardiness will be dealt with accordingly.

Medication - All medication goes to the office, not in a lunch box or backpack.

Excuses - If your child is continually absent, please return with a signed, written excuse.

Dental and Doctor Appointments - Please schedule in the afternoon and let me know in advance, if possible.

Change in Driver - If someone other than the regular person picks up your child, please send me a signed note or email.



# Reading Counts Program & Reading Calendar

Second grade students participate in the Reading Counts program. This program is operated on a point system where students earn a specified amount of points for each Reading Counts book read. Each Reading Counts book has been assigned a point value according to the level of difficulty. While I encourage students to start reading chapter books, I understand and support the reading of picture books as well. Students will aim for 10 points for chapter books and/or 20 points for picture books per trimester.

To earn points on a book the student has read, he or she must pass a Reading Counts Quiz on the computer. A passing grade is 70% or higher. Students can take quizzes in our classroom. If the student does not pass the quiz at that time, he/she may retake the quiz two more times. Most of our books have available quizzes. These books can also be used for their book reports.

Our Reading Counts library books are arranged by grade level and difficulty. The goal is to gradually steer the students to more difficult books as their ability increases. If your child does not pass a quiz, they are encouraged to read books at an easier level.

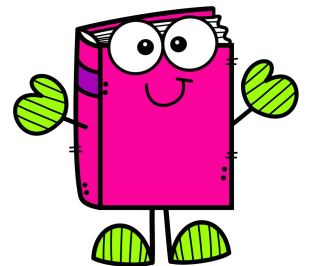
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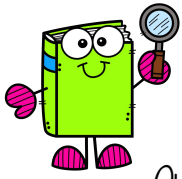
- ★ Reading achievement is positively related to the amount of time the student spends reading.
- ★ Students develop vocabulary and concept knowledge through extensive reading.

A special surprise "event" will be given to the class when they have met the class goal of 250 points or more per trimester (that's only 10 points per student!). It might be a popcorn party, a Pizza Party, a coupon for a free food item, an ice cream sundae and movie party, etc. Please keep in mind that for a student to participate in this afterschool event, your student must have achieved the minimum of 10 points for the trimester.

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Each month, your child will receive a **reading calendar** to keep track of the minutes read at home each day. If your child meets the minutes goal stated on the calendar for that month and it is signed by a parent, the student will receive 1 free homework assignment pass that they can use on any homework assignment they decide not to do (tests and projects not included)! During October through March, 2nd grade takes part in Pizza Hut's Book-It Program where the child can earn a free personal pizza if they meet the required reading goal.





# IXL

Our IXL Math program is our online math homework. Not only will it help your child practice what we are currently learning in class (the highlighted star assignments), but it will also help your child to practice any concepts they are struggling in or give them the opportunity to advance in concepts they excel in.

IXL is our weekly math homework assignment that is due by Friday at the latest and it is mandatory. It helps me to further see what your child understands as well as what your child may need a challenge or extra practice in based off the work they do outside of classroom assignments.

If your child is unable to login during any given week, please let me know as soon as possible and I would be more than happy to help!

## *Extra Enrichment Activities*

While the homework assignments are laid out for each day of the week, if your child or you decide to do it all on one day, you are more than welcomed to! I understand that students have extracurricular activities after school so I am all for any sort of flexibility in how you and your child map out their homework schedule as long as it is done by Friday. If by some chance, you are looking for some extra activities or enrichment for your child, check out our class website's tab "Websites for Second Graders" to see what your child can do to further their learning outside of IXL!

