

Dear Families,

Welcome to Second Grade! We have been busy planning, researching, prepping and anticipating all that is to come, so we are very excited to get this new school year started! Although we wish we could be physically in Room 6 with students, we are committed to making our distance learning classroom an equally engaging, interactive, inviting and warm environment where students will feel safe to challenge themselves to learn and grow!

Our hope is that this letter will give you basic information about our goals for the beginning of the school year, what to expect the first few weeks, an explanation of our schedule, requested supplies, and begin to answer some of the many questions you may have .

Goals:

Our primary goals for the the beginning of the year are to:

1. Make meaningful connections with students
2. Help new students connect and returning students reconnect with one another
3. Build trust and community
4. Engage in shared experiences through zoom lessons
5. Begin to develop a school routine
6. Familiarize students with distance learning platforms

Our goals with you as parents are to:

1. Introduce you to the second grade program
2. Partner with you by holding one-on-one meetings the first week to answer questions and to understand any challenges you or your child are experiencing
3. Make our program easily accessible for you and your child with easy to follow routines, schedules, and directions
4. Solicit your input to grow and improve our program, and demonstrate compassion and empathy for the challenges of distance learning

What to Expect the First week (Wednesday- Friday):

We are going to start *slow and steady*. The objective is to get everyone (students and parents) comfortable before moving on to more rigor. We would love to meet with each family the first week via zoom to discuss any questions or concerns you may have regarding second grade distance learning. Please sign up for a twenty minute time slot here to meet with both teachers:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E4DADA722A7F49-meeting>

Here is the Zoom information for these meetings:

Zoom ID: 295 483 0323

Password: HVSroom6

This first week students will attend a whole class zoom each morning followed by back-to-school activities to complete at home. These activities will be available for pick up on Tuesday at 9:30 am in front of the library .

August 12-14	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00-9:45	Whole class zoom	Whole class zoom	Whole class zoom
10:00-1:00	1:1 Parent Conferences zoom	1:1 Parent Conferences zoom	1:1 Parent Conferences zoom

1:00-2:30 Office hours, 1:1 student and family support, teacher prep time

What to expect the second and third week of school (weeks of August 17th and August 24th):

During these weeks we will continue to slowly build out our zoom lessons to include more instruction while still focusing on establishing routines, relationships and creating community. In addition, we will also be working hard on getting to know your child academically. Time will be spent assessing students via 1:1 zoom and with that information we will build our instruction ensuring we meet the academic needs of all our learners. This is crucial to building the rigorous and targeted academic curriculum going forward. Please know it also takes quite some time to complete, so these weeks will be devoted to laying an important foundation from which our first trimester academics will be built.

Weeks of: August 17th August 24th	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00-10:30	Zoom (A/B groups)	Zoom (A/B groups)	Zoom (A/B groups)	Zoom (A/B groups)	Zoom (A/B groups)
10:30-12:30	Assess	Assess Math (A/B groups)	Assess	Assess Spelling/ Reading (A/B groups)	Assess

1:00-2:30 Office hours, 1:1 student and family support, teacher prep time

Ongoing Schedule:

After we have completed all necessary assessments, we will be working with a schedule like the one posted below. This is a working draft but we know you'd like a snapshot of what is to come. Students will be placed in small groups for the majority of the zoom lessons to receive direct, explicit (synchronous) instruction. These groups will be flexible and change as needed. Students will zoom for approximately an hour/plus a day. When your child is not zooming (asynchronous), they will be working at home on developmentally appropriate assignments that will come with explicit instruction communicated through our google classroom. All zoom lessons will take place between 9:00-12:30 daily. You can expect that your child will have a minimum of two zoom lessons in small groups between 9:00 and 12:30 daily. The afternoons will be kept open for office hours and planning.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Synchronous-Zoom	9:00-10:00 Math (A/B groups)	9:00-10:30 Word Work/Spelling (A/B/C groups)	9:00-10:00 Math (A/B groups)	9:00-10:30 Science/STEAM* (A/B/C groups) *reading imbedded	9:00-9:45 Spelling Quizzes (A/B/C groups)
Synchronous-Zoom	10:00-12:30 Reading (A/B/C/D groups)	10:30-12:00 Writing (A/B/C groups)	10:00-12:30 Reading (A/B/C/D groups)	10:30-12:00 Writing (A/B/C groups)	10:00-10:45 Whole class SEL/fun friday
Asynchronous-independent/ Pre recorded lessons	-writing -grammar	-math -reading -grammar	-spelling -writing -grammar	-math -reading -grammar	-complete unfinished assignments

1:00-2:30 Office hours, 1:1 student and family support, teacher prep time

Please note: We will alternate between science and social studies units during the first trimester. We will start the first two months with science and switch to social studies as the election approaches. We will imbed the science and social studies standards into our english language arts curriculum.

Teaching Schedule:

Sarah will teach on Monday and Tuesdays, and Kelly on Wednesday and Thursday, and we will alternate Fridays. Although this is when your child will see our faces, know that behind the screen, we do all lesson planning together and communicate daily. When emailing us with questions or concerns, regardless of the day, we ask that you address emails to both teachers to help keep the communication streamlined.

Friday At School Materials Pick-Up:

We are very excited that we can share classroom materials with you this year as part of our distance learning model. On a weekly basis we will be sending home paper assignments and necessary materials (books, manipulatives, consumables) for lesson completion for the week. Fridays after 2:00 will be our "pick-up" and "drop-off" time for materials. This first week of school it will be a Tuesday pick up (at 9:30 am), but every Friday after will be our designated 2:00 time. Each week we will place materials for the following week in your child's labeled book box in front of the library. Please leave the book boxes on the ramp and only take what is inside. When something is asked to be returned to us, such as loaned books, please do so the following week at the same designated time (Fridays after 2:00).

Technology:

We will use google classroom as our primary platform to post assignments and materials. The first week of learning, as mentioned will be paper based, but from the second week forward, all assignments will be posted on our GC. Please download the google classroom app to your iphone and the device your child will be using for learning: ipad, tablet, or laptop. Once the app is downloaded please sign in to our class.

Here are instructions on how to access a google classroom:

<https://spark.adobe.com/video/gmsox17mQvvrA>

Google Classroom Code: [rqv44rn](#)

We will be using other learning platforms such as Epic, Readworks, and Guidedreading.com to supplement reading instruction, as well as Zearn for mathematics. All necessary instructions and codes to access those platforms will be placed in our Google Classroom under the Resource and Logins tab as we begin to use them. Again, we are implementing a slow and steady approach to the beginning of the year, so no rush getting your child on these platforms this week :)! Please focus only on Google Classroom for now. Also, please complete the technology survey sent by the office on Thursday if you haven't already done so and coordinate with Donna in the office if you need to pick up a device.

More to come!

We are sure that you still have many unanswered questions. If possible, please hang on to those for our 1:1 zoom meeting the first week of school. We really look forward to speaking with you all and are so ready to meet your child and get this year going :)! Attached you will find the Happy Valley School student and parent expectation guide as well as a list of optional back to school supplies to purchase for home use. Please also complete the following online questionnaire at your earliest convenience to help us better get to know your child. [Please CLICK HERE to complete the questionnaire.](#)

Finally, and most importantly, we want you to know that we deeply value your support and believe children do best when parents and teachers work collaboratively to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of each individual child. Furthermore, we understand these are unprecedented, trying times and we are beyond committed to making this year the best it can possibly be for you and your child. Open communication, respect for each child's individual needs, and the creation of a positive, caring and peaceful learning space are essential guiding principles that we will use this year to direct all that we do. With that in mind please know our "door" is always open. Thank you for partnering with us and we promise to give it our all!

Sincerely,

Kelly Keenan & Sarah DeMeyer

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P.S. For this next week please remember to pick up your child's first week paper packet at 9:30 am on Tuesday, August 11th on the ramp in front of the library and sign up for a 1:1 Zoom call for the first week (link provided in letter). Thank you!

HAPPY VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENT & PARENT ONLINE EXPECTATIONS

2020-2021

Student Expectations

1. Log onto Google Classroom by 8:30 A.M. for assignments
2. Video stays on during Zoom meetings
3. Mute stays on unless speaking in Zoom
4. Be up, dressed, ready to start school, seated upright at a desk or table with all materials required
5. Be present and participate in discussions and work groups
6. Complete and submit all assigned work
7. Eliminate all distractions during Zoom meetings (including pets, toys, family members, and food)
8. Students must attend all scheduled Zoom meetings to meet the daily attendance requirement

Parent Expectations

1. Ensure your child has a table to work at and supplies needed to complete assignments independently
2. Ensure your child starts the day by checking their Google Classroom
3. Ensure your child is completing all required assignments and submitting these to their teacher in a timely manner
4. Encourage your child to do their best
5. Please reach out with questions, concerns or if you need any extra help during classroom hours: 8:30-2:30

Optional Student Supply List:

Colored pencils

Markers

Pencils

Erasers

Pencil Sharpener

Construction Paper- multicolor

Glue Sticks

