

August 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome to 2nd Grade! I am very excited for our new school year- it will be so much fun!! First I would like to share my background- I was born and raised in Augusta, GA, but I have lived in different parts of the state and different parts of the world. I went to college at Mercer University and then taught in Macon, GA for one year. Then I returned to Augusta and taught in Richmond County for three years. As I was young, I wanted to go out and explore so I decided to join the Council for International Schools. This led me to teach in Japan for 2 years and Turkey for 6 years.



After my time abroad, I returned to Augusta to be close to family. I was particularly interested in teaching at Lake Forest Hills because I worked in IB schools while abroad and was thrilled when a position opened up for me. This will be my sixth year at LFH and my 21st year teaching!

During my time abroad, I worked at International Baccalaureate schools. This gave me the opportunity to learn about the inquiry-based curriculum and how to design units that spark student interest through engaging activities. Teaching is most powerful when students are able to pursue their curiosities and develop their imagination. I use lots of books, technology, and manipulatives to design integrated and exciting units for the students to explore.

Communication between the parents and the teacher is always very important. My favorite form of communication is Class DoJo. I do not check the blue folders on a daily basis. Please do not hesitate to ask questions or let me know about any issues that may arise. I try to respond to questions within 24 hours of receiving them.

I look forward to having a great year together and hope that we can support each other all year long. Thank you for letting me teach your children! It is an honor!

Sincerely,

Jane Wilkes

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Welcome to Wilkes' Warriors!



Classroom Rules

*** **Golden Rule: Treat other people the way you want to be treated.** ***

1. Pay attention, follow directions, and always listen to the teacher.
2. Respect others, especially when they are learning, working, and speaking.
3. Come to school prepared to focus, work hard, and learn.
4. Take care of our classroom materials and the school building so we have a nice, clean place to learn and play.
5. Respect the school rules and procedures.

Communication

Communication between parents and teachers is essential to student success. My favorite form of communication is through Class Dojo. Class Dojo allows you to receive and send messages to me privately at any time. I often send documents and classroom announcements this way as well. You can sign up for the App on your smart phone, go to the web site, or have notifications sent to your email. The link for my class is below. You can also send notes through student folders, but make sure to ask your student to tell me about the note immediately; otherwise it can get lost or I may not see it until the end of the day. Please allow 24 hours for me to respond. I try to reply immediately, but some days are busier than others. 😊



ClassDojo

Wilkes' Warriors 24-25's Student Login Poster.pdf



The blue folder is another form of communication. Every student has a blue folder that goes home every day. In it you will find homework, graded papers, classwork, and school announcements. One side of the folder is labeled "Send back to School". On this side you will find the homework and any documents that need to be signed and returned. The other side of the folder is labeled "Keep at Home". Please take these papers out so the folder does not become stuffed with lots of classwork and school flyers.

I am available to meet with parents every week. If you would like to set up a conference, please contact the front office to set it up because often there are multiple schedules that need to be checked. The secretary will notify me of the date and time. My door is always open! 😊

Transportation

Student safety is the most important aspect of my job, and transportation is one of our biggest challenges. According to school policy, I am not allowed to send students home using a manner different from what is indicated on the transportation form unless I receive written notice. Also, please try to inform me as soon as possible and **before 1pm** so that I can make accommodations. You can send me a message thru DoJo or a note in the blue folder, but if you send a note make sure you tell the student to give it to me as soon as they walk in the door. I do not always check the blue folders!

Studying at Home

Students will have weekly homework, which will be sent home almost every week. This will keep you informed about what we are working on in the classroom. Students need to practice their reading and math fluency. The homework will often include sheets to review skills we are covering in class, such as practice for reading and math. I also recommend reading with students at least four days a week. During this time, encourage your child to read out loud for just a few minutes, and avoid interrupting them with corrections as much as possible. Also, ask them reflection questions such as who were the characters and what did you learn. We want to develop a love of reading and gently encourage them to be thoughtful readers. For math, the homework will often include a worksheet for extra practice of our classwork or math facts. I also recommend doing flash cards for addition and subtraction. You can use traditional flash cards or web sites such as XtraMath and First in Math. Addition and subtraction are the basis for their math development and confidence, and it is essential they can calculate basic facts quickly.

Enrichment on LaunchPad

We recommend students do 30-45 minutes in iReady math and reading each week. We give them the opportunity to work on iReady at school, but extra practice at home is helpful. There are also a lot of resources for enrichment through LaunchPad like Myon, Epic, BrainPop, First in Math, Flocabulary, IXL, Dream Box and many more! ☺

Accelerated Reader

Our school participates in the Accelerated Reader program. Students can earn points by completing short quizzes on books they have read. The goal is to get enough points to attend the AR parties in the media center. There is a party at the end of each semester, and the points start over at the beginning of the semester. When reading with your student at home, it is best to use a book on their AR level, which is determined by their iReady diagnostic. You can check the AR level of a book on the website arbookfind.com. If you send me the name and author of a book, I can help the child find the test at school! **I want the students to take at least two tests a week in order to get enough points to qualify for the party.**

Birthdays, Allergies, and Special Events

If your child has an allergy, no matter what it is, you need to make sure the nurse, cafeteria, and I are notified. This is **imperative** to student safety. If you would like to bring food for a special event, please be mindful of allergies that other students have. I would hate for every student except one to get a cupcake due to an allergy. If you email me, I can let you know of any ingredients you need to be aware of. **Also, children are not allowed to pass out birthday invitations at school unless everyone in the class is receiving one. If you want to give invitations to a smaller number, please give them to me and I will discreetly hand them out or help you contact the other parents.**

