2nd Grade Colbert Contact

February/March 2020

Greetings!

 For the past couple of weeks, we have been working very hard with “perseverance” and practicing how to become 3rd graders. We have learned that there are consequences for our actions and that sometimes we have to show persistence to reach our goal. As our child grows to become a 3rd grader, the expectations for them will change. Our children will be expected to conduct self- control and self-monitoring with their behavior. They will be expected to follow multi step directions with their work on an accelerated level so that in 3rd grade, they may be able to prepare for the Georgia Milestone Test. Students must be able to pass this test in order to be promoted to 4th grade. Much of the strategies that students in 3rd grade perform require focus and persistence and self- control that must be **mastered in this 2nd grade year**. We have been practicing some **challenging strategies (such as RACE and RICE)** to help us become familiar with those strategies and grow this year so that we may perform our best for this year and next year**.** Therefore, **we can no longer continue disruptive behavior** without fully understanding the consequences for our actions.

**SIGNED PAPER FOLDERS:**

 Signed Paper Folders will now include the graded worksheets of the content we have learned in class. This is to provide a visual of the strategies and the rigor of work our 2nd grade students are expected to accomplish by the end of the school year.

 Please keep in mind that we have only **just begun** learning and practicing these “new strategies” this week and the grades will mostly reflect Score 1 (“I don’t understand”) and Score 2 (I’m getting it!). A poster explaining the scores will also be made available on the Class Story Tab in Class Dojo along with the RACE and RICE strategy and an example of what the students should be able to construct.

 **Score 1 and Score 2 grades are to be expected.** We are now “training our brain” for a new way of thinking and it requires “perseverance” and “discipline”. Students will not always have “quick” answers on their tests, but instead will have a “constructed” approach to their **reasoning skills** and **analyzing abilities**.

 It is expected that our 2nd graders will be able to justify their answers and give a written explanation as to why the strategy was selected and how it was used to answer the question. This is a long process and is why many standards continue to remain a 2 on the Progress Reports and Report Cards. To achieve a Score 3, students must be able to demonstrate the extent of these standards independently.

 From this point on, the Signed Paper Folders will reflect what the **unit tests and check points look like** as well as the **weekly practice of the skills concepts** we have learned in class. All tests, excluding unit tests, are given after the content has been reviewed and **practiced for the entire week**. Cumulative Unit tests will be given after the unit has been covered and will include 4-6 weeks of instruction of a composite of the weekly skills/strategies from the Signed Paper Folders sent home.

 This ensures that our students will have had enough time to practice the concept before being tested over it. This will also reveal the continued struggle with reading and following directions. I will continue to remind students to take their time and will “read the directions” with them before administering the assessment.

 **I-READ WEEKLY MINUTES/CONFERENCES:**

We have completed the I-Ready Mid-Year Diagnostic Test for Reading and Math and the results have been sent to the provided email from Class Dojo. I have started having scheduled conferences to discuss the Mid-Year Diagnostic Test results and any concerns you may have. Please check Class Dojo to verify the date and times that have been scheduled for your conferences.

Please continue to have our child complete the 50 mins. of iReady Reading and 50 mins. of iReady Math EVERY week. This **helps them understand and continue practicing the skills/strategies** we are learning in class**.**

Thank you for continuing to help us grow!

Mrs. Colbert ☺