

Welcome Parents!

We hope this handout will help answer some of your questions and serve as a guide to help your child in second grade. We look forward to working with you and your child in our common goal to provide the best education for each child. We are strongly committed to your child's success.

Who really is my child's teacher?

Your child has two classroom teachers this year. Mrs. Dunbar will teach Math, Science, and Social Studies. Mrs. Keller will teach Reading, Creative Writing, Language, and Spelling. Handwriting will be taught by the homeroom teacher.

Parent Teacher Communication

If you need to discuss a problem or concern, please get in touch with one of us. Most problems are best solved when we work together. Please use one of the following ways to contact us:

1. Send a note with your child. Please tape it to your child's Reading-Math Log because we check that daily..
2. Call the school and leave a voice mail message.
Mrs. Keller's voice mail number 425
Mrs. Dunbar's voice mail number 415
Voice mail is only checked as we leave for the day—often after 5:00. We do not check voice mail during the day.
3. E-mail us. We will respond as soon as possible, but probably not while we are teaching your child. Look for a late afternoon answer.
Mrs. Keller's e-mail is jkeller@houstonisd.org
Mrs. Dunbar's e-mail is kdunbar1@houstonisd.org

We will try to respond to notes or messages the same day. We usually make calls in the evening because our break time is filled with planning and conferencing. If we need to meet with you, we can arrange a conference after school, before school, or at our conference time from 8:40-9:25. Please make an appointment

rather than just stopping by before school or during dismissal. That way we can give you our full attention and assure your privacy. Because of our teaching responsibilities, we cannot conference with you during class time.

The Red Folder

The student's Red Folder will go home daily and serve as the communications and homework folder for each child. Please check it nightly for assignments and messages. We will have our own weekly newsletter in the Red Folder every Monday. On Wednesdays, there will be the Paw Prints newsletter from Mrs. Rose along with notices from the office and the P.T.O. Be sure to read all items and return only those that might require signatures. Tests and daily work will also be returned in the Red Folder on Wednesdays so that you can look over your child's work, help them correct their work, and keep up with their progress. Please sign the papers and return them the next day.

Conduct Report

The weekly conduct report will be sent home every Monday in the Red Folder. Please sign the conduct report sheet and return it to school on Tuesday. Compliment good conduct and take this opportunity to work on improving problem areas.

More About Homework

Your child will have homework every night, Monday through Thursday. Students copy the homework assignment in their Homework spiral every day. Please check it daily. Classroom reminders are also in the Homework Spiral. **Remember-every night your child will bring home both a Homework Spiral with the assignments and the Red Folder with any sheets to be done and notices to be read.**

Homework time will consist of 20 minutes of reading from library books, home readers, or materials of the child's choice. This may be silent reading or reading to a parent. There is a

Reading/Math Log inside the Red Folder for parents to sign and record the child's nightly reading and math practice. Math Practice for the Math Log should be at least 15 minutes of practicing math concepts and skills. This can be fact flash cards, computer math, oral discussion of time or money, or other math related activities. In addition to reading, students should study for spelling tests which are given every Friday.

Mrs. Keller will send homework on Mondays and Wednesdays—usually spelling, vocabulary, or reading comprehension work. Mrs. Dunbar will send homework for math, social studies, or science on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Homework should be completed neatly in pencil and returned the next day. We view homework as a child's responsibility. You can help your child by providing a set time and quiet place for homework.

A Special Word About Math Facts

It is very important that all children learn-**that's memorize**—their basic math facts from 0 to 18. Flash cards are a must. They should be used daily for practice. Children are graded on speed tests for these basic addition and subtraction facts each Friday, so there isn't time for children to use their fingers to count on. Please take the time to help your child study regularly so he will be successful.

Grade Speed

Grade Speed is the computer program that is open to parents who want to keep up with their child's grades. Parents who want to use Grade Speed should be sure to attend one of the scheduled training sessions. Check on-line for more details on the new grading policy that was recently approved and adopted by the Bush faculty.

AR- Accelerated Reading

AR is a computer based program that helps students keep up with the books they read and tests the comprehension of what they read. Students are tested and given a reading range to help them with their book choices. This is mainly a student-driven program. All students are expected to participate in AR. If you need to know the reading level of any books you have at home or get from the library, you can go visit this web site: www.arbookfind.com

Renzulli

Renzulli is a computer based program which will be open to all students this year. It capitalizes on a child's learning styles and interests to help pick special projects and areas of study. All students will be using Renzulli this year at school and at home.

Discipline and Management

Although we do not expect children to sit perfectly still and quiet all day, there are rules the children must follow to insure a good learning climate in the classroom. The Barbara Bush Principles of Discipline are:

1. Respect—I will treat everyone with courtesy and respect.
2. Safety—I will keep my educational environment safe and positive.
3. Preparedness—I will come to school prepared for learning.
4. Responsibility—I will act appropriately throughout the building and will accept responsibility for my actions.
5. Focus—I will stay on task.

We prefer to focus on the positive; however, there are times when consequences for inappropriate behavior are needed. Not following the Principles of Discipline can result in signing the conduct chart, recess time outs, loss of recess, notes to parents, or in the most severe cases—a trip to the office. The conduct grade is determined by the number of times the discipline chart is signed

during the week. If we see occurring problems, we may contact you so we can work through the problem before it gets out of hand.

Don't Forget

* You can buy a lunch card on Mondays before school for a week, month, or even longer for your convenience. The new lunch cost is \$1.60.

* Bush serves breakfast at no cost daily from 7:20-7:35. Late students will not be admitted to breakfast.

* The first bell rings at 7:40. School begins at 7:50 when the tardy bells ring. Your child should be in the classroom by that time. Children who come in after 7:50 are counted tardy. Excessive tardies impact a child's progress in school because he is missing valuable instruction. Tardies will be recorded on the report cards and put in the Permanent Records this school year.

* The school store is open on Tuesday from 7:30-8:00 in the morning before school and Friday 11:15-12:45 at lunch time if your child needs to purchase supplies, Bush T-shirts, or other Bush clothing.

* Be sure to send a written excuse to school with your child for each absence within three days of that absence, or that absence will be counted as a unexcused absence on the report card.

We Believe

We believe that all children can be successful learners. We will work hard to get to know your child and identify his best learning style. If you have insight into your child's personal learning style or other things that will help us better serve your child, please share those things with us. Your child's success depends on a good working relationship between the home and the school. We will work to make it the best!

For More Information and Dress Code Information—See the Bush Handbook online at www.bushelementary.org.

Nine Weeks Grading Periods

Report card Dates

1st Period	Aug. 24-Oct. 22	Report Card—Nov. 4
2nd Period	Oct.26-Dec.18	Report Card-- Jan. 13
3rd Period	Jan.5-Mar.10	Report Card-- Mar. 31
4th Period	Mar.22-May 27	Report Card-- May 27

Mrs. Keller's Homeroom Mother is Christy Medina.

Dunbar's Homeroom Mother is Mrs. Jones.