

1st and 2nd Grade Handbook

Foothill Elementary, 2018-2019

Ms. Melinda Fletcher

Dear Parents,



Welcome to a new school year! I am excited to be teaching 1st and 2nd grade and am looking forward to an amazing year. A combination classroom provides unique opportunities for student development and I am confident that my students will make wonderful progress this year. Each child is different and develops at a different rate, and I will do my best to provide the supportive learning environment that each student needs. Along with providing a strong academic program, I hope to share Jesus' love with my students and prepare them for heaven. Thank you for sharing your children with me!

Teacher Contact Information:



School phone: 408-263-2568

E-mail:

mfletcher@foothilladventistschool.org

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I will be happy to meet with you after school, talk over the phone, or communicate via e-mail.

I am available 30 min. before and after school on most days and I am happy to make an appointment at a different time if needed.

Supplies:

On the first day of school, each child should bring the following supplies:

- 36 #2 Pencils(yellow)*
- 2 large pink erasers*
- 1 package wide-rule notebook paper*
- 1 box facial tissue*
- 12 glue sticks*
- 4 dry erase markers*
- 1 box plastic silverware*
- 1 small box markers*
- 1 small box crayons*

Items with a * will be collected for use by the whole class. Please do NOT write names on these items.

- Crayons or markers for personal use (if desired)
- Scissors
- 1 Two-pocket folder
- Zippered pouch (to hold crayons, etc.)
- 2 Wide-rule spiral notebooks

These items will be for the student's personal use and should be labeled with her/her name. Please plan to

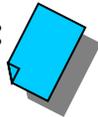
replace items as needed throughout the school year.

Dress Code:

See the Foothill Handbook for uniform requirements. ALL clothing items should be labeled with your child's name so that misplaced items can be returned to you. **Jackets especially need to be labeled**, as they get misplaced easily. Jackets with names almost always turn back up, but jackets without names often disappear completely.

Jewelry of any kind is not allowed. Clear plastic studs may be worn if ears are pierced. If student is allergic to plastic, please use tiny metal studs or leave earrings out during school hours.

Approximate Schedule:



7:55 Morning line up (gym)
8:00 Warm-up/Journal
8:30 Worship/Bible
9:00 PE/Art/Music
9:30 Snack/recess
10:00 Math
11:15 Phonics
11:45 Lunch/recess
12:30 Language Arts
1:30 Recess
1:50 Social Studies/Science
2:30 Finish work/free time
3:00 Clean up
3:15 Dismissal

Snack/Lunch:



If you choose to send a snack for your child to eat during the morning break, please send a **healthful** snack. Cookies,

candy, etc. are not allowed at snack time. Crackers, fruit, or granola bars are good choices.

Although I usually encourage children to share, students are NOT allowed to share their food with other children. Each parent has their own preferences for the diet of their child and I want to respect that as much as possible as well as limit the spread of germs throughout our class. Furthermore, we have students at school with very severe food allergies and we want to make sure that all students are safe.

For lunch, students have the option of bringing their own food or purchasing a hot lunch from the Discoveryland hot lunch program. For information on pricing and menus, please see the Foothill website under "Campus Life." Hot lunch count will be taken each morning, and students may order lunch at that time.

Due to safety concerns and time constraints, students in K-4 will NOT be allowed to use the microwave at lunch time. Please send cold lunches, or place food in a thermos to keep it warm for your child. There will be NO exceptions to this rule and if a child cannot eat his/her lunch because it needs to be heated he/she will be provided a hot lunch at the usual charge.

Daily Work:

Your child will be given daily work to do in class. This will include Bible activities, writing, handwriting, math, social studies, science, spelling, and reading. There should be ample time to finish the assignments each day, but if your student does not finish they will bring it home to be finished for the next

day. Please check your child's folder each evening and help your child return all work to school.

Homework:

Homework will be a review of concepts previously learned or practice for concepts currently being taught.

Homework is for you as a parent to do with your child so that you are able to spend time with him/her, be involved in his/her education, and be aware of what he/she is learning. Homework will be sent home every Monday and will be due back on Friday.

Assessment:

Formal assessment will be given in all subject areas and daily work will be graded. The following grading scale will be used:

E-Excellent work 95%-100%
S-Satisfactory work 70%-94%
N-Needs to improve 69% and below

Behavior Monitoring:

A color chart with clips for each student is used to monitor daily classroom behavior. Each student starts the day on green, which is "Ready to Learn." Based on behavior throughout the day they will either clip up to "Good Day, Great Day, or Outstanding Day" or down to "Warning!, Teacher's Choice, or Call Home."

At the end of each day students will receive stickers based on which color they end up on—1 sticker for green (Ready to Learn), 2 for pink (Good Day), etc. Once a student's sticker chart

is full her/she will get to pick something from the prize box.

Each week a new "My Day Was..." note will be placed in your child's homework folder. This note is an easy way for me to communicate with you on how your child is doing and I will make a notation for each day, adding a detailed note when needed. Please review this note each day so that you are aware of how your child is doing in class.

Scholastic:



Each month Scholastic book order forms will be sent home. This is a great way to find fun books to read with your child and help fill the classroom library, since the class gets free book points for every order.

Please note that although Scholastic offers plenty of quality literature, there will be some books in the Scholastic flyers that do not support the values of Foothill; you may wish to exercise discretion when selecting books for your child.

Books may be ordered online with a credit card or by filling out the paper order form and returning it to school with a check made out to Scholastic. Books will be delivered to the school and sent home with your child. The information for accessing Scholastic online is below:

Web address:

<http://www.scholastic.com/bookclubs>

Class Activation Code: GM3MB

Once on the site, you will be able to create a personal account with Scholastic. By entering the class

activation code, you ensure that the books will be sent to the correct classroom.

Electronic Resources:

Several electronic resources that go along with our classroom curriculum are available to you and your child:

Spelling City—available on the web at <http://www.spellingcity.com/mmfletcher> or as an Android or Apple app. To find the spelling lists for our class, simply search by school or teacher name.

Spelling City allows students to practice their spelling words through fun games and practice tests.

Think Central—this website comes with our math curriculum and allows you and your child to view the student text, use helpful manipulatives, and play fun math games online.

Each student has his/her own username and activities available will be based on grade and skill level. Information on how to log in will be passed out once it is set up.

Seesaw—this app will allow students to build a digital portfolio that shows projects they are working on. We will begin by using it to document what we are doing in reading centers. A handout will be passed out at Back to School Night explaining how you can sign up to view your child's portfolio at home!

Birthdays:

Parents may make their child's birthday special by bringing a treat to share with

the class. This is a good way to encourage thinking of others. Cookies and juice or sugar-free popsicles are favorites. No soda please. If you wish to bring a cake, please plan to stay and help serve it. Please notify me ahead of time if you plan to bring something so we can plan to provide alternative treats for any students with food allergies.

School/Home Communication:

It is very important to me that you as parents know what is happening at school and that I as your child's teacher know about any home events that pertain to your child's success at school. As much as possible, I will be available for 30 min. before/after school and by e-mail at any time. Please feel free to come to me with any questions or concerns you may have, and I will do my best to make sure you know what is happening in our classroom. Each day your child will bring home a folder with homework and any informational notes passed out at school that day. Please review your child's work, remove and read informational notes, and return the folder to school each day.

Curriculum:



Math: *Go Math* by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Grade 1 & Grade 2
Common Core topics covered in the math curriculum include number sense and place value, addition and subtraction, measurement and data, and geometry and fractions. Manipulatives, hands-on activities, and digital learning will be incorporated into the program.

Learning the basic addition and subtraction facts is an important benchmark standard for 1st and 2nd grade. Each week we will be focusing on a different set of math facts, which will be indicated in the weekly newsletter. Helping your child practice these facts at home as well will help ensure his/her success at school.

Phonics/Handwriting/Spelling: *Saxon*

Phonics, Level 1 & Level 2

The phonics program focuses on learning spelling rules and high frequency words and becoming a fluent reader.

The spelling list each week will include words using spelling patterns learned in previous phonics lessons. Each week the spelling list will also include sentences for the student to practice. One of these sentences will be dictated as part of the test. Students who are able to correctly write the sentence will receive extra credit.

Writer's Workshop:

I completed my Master's research project on using writer's workshop with emergent writers. During the writer's workshop period the most current research in the field will be used to provide students with the building blocks they need to develop a positive attitude towards writing and become confident, successful writers.

If scheduling allows we will be having an Author's Night towards the end of the year, where students will be able to share their writing with family and friends.

Language Arts: *Pathways: A Journey to Excellence*

Language arts themes incorporate Common Core standards for reading narrative and non-fiction text,

comprehension strategies, word study, and grammar. Themes include heroes, my world and others, living things, spiritual journey, friends and family, environment, personal growth, history, and culture.

Each student will be required to complete a total of six book reports throughout the year (one a month except for months shortened by vacations). The purpose of these reports is to encourage students to read a variety of books, increase their reading comprehension and report-writing skills, and develop oral presentation skills. Report styles will vary with each report, but students will always be expected to make a brief oral presentation about their book as well as turning in the written report.

Science: *By Design*

Science topics covered include life science, physical science, earth science, and the human body. All science topics emphasize God as our Creator.

Bible: Encounter Bible Curriculum

The Bible lessons will help students explore God's character through both Old and New Testament stories.

Social Studies: *McGraw Hill Networks: Our Community and Beyond*

This social studies curriculum features consumable textbooks for each student and covers topics such as people and traditions, where we live, beginning economics, and good citizens.

Physical Education: The PE curriculum includes various games and activities that will help develop your child's motor skills and ability to work and play successfully with others.

Music: Music will be taught weekly. Students will learn about singing, rhythm, various instruments, etc.
Art: Art will be taught weekly. Students will experiment with using various mediums to express themselves and learn about basic principles of art such as color, tone, patterns, etc.

Field Trips:



I plan to take the students on several field trips this year, giving them a chance to have hands-on learning experiences outside the normal classroom.

Previous field trips have included Spina Farms, Theatreworks, Levi Stadium, Alum Rock Park, and Lake Elizabeth. As soon as field trips for the new year are scheduled I will let you know—at least a month in advance if possible.

These wonderful learning experiences are not possible without parents to help drive and chaperone—thank you in advance for your help.

In order to come with us on field trips you **must** have the following on file with the office:

- background check through Verify Volunteers
- Driver information form

If you have not completed a background check yet, please see the office for details. A link to the website can be found on the Foothill website under “Academics/Outdoor Education/Parent Participation.” As we want to ensure that we have done everything possible to keep your children safe, we ask that you complete this background check before driving or chaperoning for a field trip.

EVEN IF YOU DRIVE ONLY YOUR OWN CHILD, YOU MUST HAVE A BACKGROUND CHECK DONE. THIS IS THE LAW AND WE MUST ABIDE BY IT. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.

Children from outside our class (siblings, cousins, etc.) are not allowed on field trips. Please arrange for other supervision while on a school field trip.

Fundraising:



You can help our school raise money with a simple clip of the scissors! We are collecting Box Tops for Education and Campbell’s Labels for Education.

Teacher Credentials:

I graduated from Pacific Union College in June, 2006 with my Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies, along with S.D.A. and CA teaching credentials. In June of 2012 I completed my Masters of Education through Pacific Union College.

I have been teaching at Foothill for twelve years and have taught kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades. I love teaching and sharing Jesus with my students and cannot think of any other profession I would rather be in.