SECOND GRADE NEWS

September 2026

Hello Families! We are excited to welcome you all to Second grade! We have lots of learning and experiences to look forward to. If you are interested in helping in school/classroom activities, please complete the volunteer training on the LSE website. Please continue to refer to our Monthly Newsletters for important dates and information that may be happening in Second grade. Let's have a wonderful year! ■

■ Reminders & Contact Information

- **Homework Notebooks:** Coming home on Monday, September 7th. Please review the "Homework Tidbits" for information about how students will complete the homework each week. Homework Journals are due back on Friday or the last day in the school week. The content each week is a review of things that your child is learning in school. Please have your child review the skills while at home.
- **Student Info Changes:** To reach our front office or make any changes to student information (address, phone numbers, emails), please email lseattendance@carrollk12.org.

Teacher Contact Emails:

- **Ms. Daniel** - AlexisDaniel@carollk12.org
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■ Fundations Level 2 - Unit 1 (Phonics & Word Study)

Carroll County teachers are providing direct and explicit teaching about "how English works." The goal is for students to learn word patterns and apply them in reading and spelling. This year we'll continue using a program called Fundations® to teach some important basics of reading and spelling. It may appear that instruction is slow moving at first, but Fundations® is laying the necessary foundations for your child to be a fluent, independent reader and writer. Unit 1 is a review of word study skills and will last approximately 2 weeks.

Skill & Definition	How can you help at home? / Examples
Digraph: Two consonants together that make one sound (sh, ch, th, wh, ck). *Ex. sh i p*	Dictate the word and have your child repeat it. Have them say each sound while tapping a finger to the thumb – digraphs get one tap. For consonant blends, each consonant gets its own tap. Have them spell the word or find digraphs in text. **Examples:** chip, math, thud, dash, whip
Consonant Blend: When two consonants are together and each make their own sound. *Ex. s t o p*	**Examples:** flip, camp, test, just, grass, swim
Digraph Blend: A digraph blended with a consonant. *Ex. l u n ch (the n and ch each make a sound)*	**Examples:** lunch, shred, bunch, ranch, shrub

Closed Syllables: Ends with a consonant(s) and has one vowel. The vowel sound is short. *Ex. p■th, m■t, l■mp*	Dictate the word and have your child repeat it. Have your child tap out the word – digraphs get one tap. Have your child spell the word. **Examples:** quiz, shrimp, chimp, strap, quack, brunch

High Frequency Words: boy, by, girl, he, here, she, small, want, were, what

Oral Vocabulary Words: apologized, gazed, partner, rummaged, scent

■ Second Grade Mathematics – Unit 1

During Unit 1, your child will work on becoming fluent with adding and subtracting within 20. Fluency is defined as solving facts quickly and accurately without halting, stumbling, or reversing oneself. By the end of Grade 2, students need to know from memory all sums of two one-digit numbers.

Operational Fluency Skills Needed:

- Fluently add and subtract within 20 using mental strategies.
- Use addition and subtraction within 20 to solve one- and two-step word problems involving adding to, taking from, putting together, taking apart, and comparing, with unknowns in all positions.
- Draw a picture graph and a bar graph (with single-unit scale) to represent a data set with up to four categories. Solve simple put-together, take-apart, and compare problems using information in a bar graph.
- Represent whole numbers as lengths from 0 on a number line diagram with equally spaced points.
- Determine whether a group of objects (up to 20) has an odd or even number of members (e.g., by pairing or counting by 2s); write an equation to express an even number as a sum of two equal addends.

Ways Parents Can Help at Home:

- Keep a set of flash cards in the car to practice as you run errands. Encourage your child to explain their strategy.
- Play **Fact War** with a deck of cards. Each player flips 1 card and the player to say the sum first gets both cards.
- Have your child sort flashcards based on the strategy they would use to solve the problem, then solve one chosen pile.
- **Move past 'counting on':** Help your child generate facts where counting on is efficient, and where it is NOT efficient (such as 5+7). Encourage them to explain why.

Key Vocabulary: Add, Addend, Subtraction, Subtrahend, Plus, Minus, Sum, Difference, Equal, Equality, Fewer, More, Equation, Number Sentence, Related Fact, Inverse Operation, Data, Graph, Scale, Number Line, Fluent, Strategy, Odd, Even.

Parent Video Resource (Addition Using Ten Frames):
http://video.carrollk12.org/view/HEIMUSINGDOUBLETENFRAMESTOSOLVE

■ Second Grade Playground Math Facts

We are beginning an exciting new program called “Playground Math Facts” to help students build their fact fluency within 20. Our goal is for them to memorize these important facts automatically by the end of second grade. Students should be able to tell the answer orally within **3 seconds**. Kids will work through various Playground Fact Levels at their own pace and earn certificates as they master each level!

List 1 grass	**List 2** sandbox	**List 3** monkey bars	**List 4** seesaw	**List 5** Jungle gym	**List 6** bench	**List 7** swings	**List 8** slide	**List 9** student
Review 1st Grade Facts	Add 10	Sub 10 / Diff of 10	Use 10 Add	Use 10 Sub	Use 10 Sub	Add Use Doubles	Sub Use Doubles	Review All Facts

6+6, 7+7, 8+8, 9+9, 10+10, 20-10, 18-9, 16-8, 14-7, 12-6, 10-9, 10-8, 10-7, 10-6, 10-5, 10-4, 10-3, 10-2	10+2, 10+3, 10+4, 10+5, 10+6, 10+7, 10+8, 10+9 *also turn around facts*	19-9, 19-10, 18-8, 18-10, 17-10, 17-7, 16-10, 16-6, 15-10, 15-5, 14-10, 14-4, 13-10, 13-3, 12-10, 12-2, 11-10	4+7, 3+8, 4+8, 5+8, 6+8, 7+8, 3+9, 4+9, 5+9, 6+9, 7+9, 8+9 *also turn around facts*	11-7, 11-8, 12-8, 13-8, 14-8, 15-8, 16-8, 17-8, 11-9, 12-9, 13-9, 14-9, 15-9, 16-9, 17-9, 18-9	11-3, 11-4, 12-3, 12-4, 13-4, 13-5, 13-6, 14-5, 14-6, 15-6	3+4, 4+5, 5+6, 6+7, 7+8, 8+9, 9+10, 3+5, 5+7, 6+8, 7+9 *also turn around facts*	7-3, 7-4, 9-5, 11-6, 11-5, 13-7, 13-6, 15-8, 15-7, 17-8, 17-9, 8-5, 8-3, 12-5, 12-7, 14-6, 14-8, 16-7, 16-9	Students choose 25 fact cards to mix up and practice! **NO GRASS FACTS**

■ Second Grade Social Studies – Civics

Unit Enduring Understanding: Meeting the common good in a democracy is important, but difficult.

Unit Question: How can leaders and citizens support the common good?

Essential Question 1: Why is the common good important?
Students will analyze the importance of the common good in decision making by: defining the common good; explaining the importance of promoting it; recognizing that people are sometimes not treated fairly for reasons beyond their control; explaining how multiple perspectives sometimes make it difficult to agree; and researching examples of leaders making decisions for the common good.
Essential Question 2: What is a democracy?
Students will understand democratic ideals by: explaining what makes the United States a democratic republic; identifying the local, state, and federal levels of government; and researching examples of democratic leaders addressing the wants and needs of the people they serve.
Essential Question 3: Why should I be an active citizen?
Students will analyze responsible civic engagement by: identifying civic engagement activities on local, state, and national levels; explaining how participating connects citizens with their communities; exploring voting as a core part of civic life; investigating communication tools used to voice ideas to government; and researching historic and ordinary figures who engaged civically.

Key Vocabulary: Common Good, Society, Community, Cooperating, Defection, Perspective, Equal Rights, Authority, Power, Government, Federal Government, State Government, Local Government, Vote, Democracy, Election, Protest, Communicate.

■ Second Grade Science & STEM – Waves

Waves Core Objectives: Students will learn that sounds come from vibrations; design simple tests to gather evidence; observe phenomena to construct evidence-based accounts; know that objects are visible if they give off or reflect light; use mirrors to redirect light beams; collaboratively investigate questions; and discover how people use devices to communicate over long distances.

Ways FAMILIES Can Help:

- Use the Discovery Education link to find more information (see school log-in details).
- Make your own musical instrument using vibration to make sound.
- Look for ways light and sound are used to communicate around you (traffic lights, phone rings, signs).
- Experiment with ways to make a flashlight reflect from one surface to another or block light to create diverse shadows.
- Create stained glass using layers of tissue paper and journal about what happens when light travels through it.

■ STEM Materials Needed for Hands-on Activities:

We will be studying light and sound waves in our upcoming STEM unit. Please send any of the following items to school for our interactive projects:

- Toilet paper tubes / Paper towel tubes
- Shoeboxes (any size)
- Empty containers with lids (oatmeal containers, coffee cans, etc.)
- Colored tissue paper / Colored cellophane

Thank you in advance for your donations! — Second Grade Teachers