

*Dear Parents,*

*Welcome to Second Grade at St. John the Baptist School! As a teacher, I see each child as a unique individual with God-given strengths and talents. Second graders are enthusiastic and curious about their world. It is my goal to create a warm, positive environment in which all children feel comfortable and challenged to learn.*

*This year, in Religion class, we will learn what it means to be members of a faith community. We will develop an understanding of God's love, protection, and power, while building personal character traits through the study of the life of Jesus Christ. We will prepare students to receive their First Holy Communion.*

*Second Graders dramatically improve their reading skills as they become independent readers. Reading is central to learning, and is a source of endless information and enjoyment.*

*Writing is an extension of reading. Transitional spelling is supported as the students are encouraged to put their thoughts and ideas into words. Students are encouraged to pay attention to punctuation, and to develop an understanding of prefixes, and suffixes, compound words, tenses, synonyms, and parts of speech. Legibility is important.*

*Oral aspects of language are also important. My goal is to provide the opportunity for our students to gain experience and confidence in telling and retelling stories, speaking informally, sharing information with classmates and visitors, and presenting oral reports.*

*In Mathematics, Grade 2 builds upon what our students have already learned, and are introduced to more complex forms of Math. By the end of the year, students will understand place value and number relationships in addition and subtraction, and will use simple concepts of multiplication. They will measure quantities with appropriate units, and see relationships among shapes by paying attention to their geometric attributes, and begin pre-Algebra concepts.*

*Learning to care for and respect one's body is an important part of the curriculum. Students learn about the relationship between nutrition and health, disease and its prevention, the importance of cleanliness, and the role of exercise in physical development. We will also develop an understanding of, and experience with, motion and force and the physical properties of earth materials.*

*In Social Studies, the concept of citizenship is emphasized, in ways that promote responsibility and how to resolve conflict. We will learn about families, neighborhoods, cities, towns and countries. We will talk about our community, learn about and celebrate holidays, read biographies of important Americans, and become familiar with maps.*

*In order for students to achieve their learning potential, it is essential that the classroom rules be followed. I ask that parents consistently reinforce the following rules:*

- 1. Follow directions*
- 2. Respect others*
- 3. Be kind*
- 4. Work quietly*
- 5. Work and play safely*

*I anticipate a wonderful year of growth and learning. Please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns or comments.*

*Sincerely,*

*Ms. Taylor*