

Welcome back to



Dear Parents,

Welcome to second grade! I hope it will be a learning filled and enjoyable year for both you and your child. I wanted to provide you and your child with some helpful information about the first days of school and our upcoming year together.

I am delighted to be starting my nineteenth-year teaching at McGinn School. I truly LOVE teaching second grade. I am looking forward to enhancing my teaching practice this year based on the combination of my experience teaching second grade, my graduate coursework regarding student learning styles, differentiated instruction and Cognitive Behavior Therapy, as well my application of Multi-sensory Reading Instruction for all levels of learners. Additionally, as a former McGinn parent, I am privileged to know first hand about the wonderful learning journey your child is experiencing at McGinn.

I completed my Master of Arts Degree in Special Education at Kean University in May 2011. My graduate thesis paper titled: *The Impact of Teacher's Attitudes and Perceptions of Inclusion Students with Asperger's Syndrome and the Effect on the Level of Achievement and Acceptance of Students with Asperger's Syndrome* was accepted by the University. I am Dual Certified as an Elementary Education Teacher K-8 and Teacher of Students with Disabilities K-12. Additionally, I have my Orton- Gillingham Dyslexic Therapist Multi-sensory Reading Teacher Certification from Farleigh Dickenson University. Three years ago, I added a Supervisor Certificate to my original certifications by completing the necessary coursework at Kean University.

In the 2015-2016 school year, I was chosen to participate in a joint grant opportunity with Kean University, Plainfield and Scotch Plains Fanwood School Districts to study Cognitive Behavior Therapy and Building Mentoring Capacity. This opportunity has grown throughout the past 4 years to include mentoring pre-service teachers in our classroom, enabling me to continue growing in my skills working

with my colleagues, new teachers and the students I serve in my classroom. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to present to my colleagues both In-District Workshops and for the past three years at The Annual Kean University Thought Leaders Conference.

During the 2017-18 I was honored as Governor's Educator of the Year for McGinn School. I am so very proud to have been recognized for working with students, colleagues and in the community for a job that I consider myself fortunate to be able to do. I look forward to continue pursuing my passion for teaching with my new class this year!

Second graders will be having a midmorning snack everyday. Please provide your child with a **nutritious** snack that he or she can easily manage. If you would like to provide your child with a drink for snack, water or a juice box is fine.

While back to school shopping please pick up the items indicated on the second grade supply list. In addition to those items your child will need a smock (an adult-sized, old, button shirt or tee-shirt is fine) for art class and our class projects. Please label all items except pencils, highlighters, dry erase markers, erasers and glue sticks

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns now or throughout the year, please feel free to send a note, email: Dorothy Lusk <dlusk@spfk12.org>, leave a message on my voice mail (extension 1623), or arrange a conference. I am very pleased to be sharing the second grade experience with your child and I am looking forward to a positive school experience as we work together.

"If a child cannot learn in the way we teach, we must teach in a way the child can learn."

- Unknown

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Dorothy Lusk