



Dear Families,

Welcome to 2nd grade! Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Miss Cathy VerSteeg. I received my Bachelors degree in Elementary Education with a K-12 Vocal Music Education Endorsement from Dakota Wesleyan University. I also have a Masters degree in Curriculum/Instruction with Reading Specialist Certification from Black Hills State University. Everyone in my family is a teacher! My mom, Patty, just retired from teaching 1st grade at L.B. Williams. My dad, Dave, teaches first year satellite and telecommunications students at Mitchell Tech. My younger brother, John, is starting his 4th year as an instructor of mechanical engineering at SDSU. We are a family of teachers! In my spare time I like to read, play piano, do photography, and watch movies with friends.

This is my eleventh year teaching 2nd grade at Longfellow. I love being part of the Longfellow family!! I am very excited to be working with your child, and am confident that we will have a fun and productive year. Below, you will find general information about how our classroom will operate this year. **The first day of school is Wednesday, August 24th.** Your child needs gym shoes for P.E. and a pair of working headphones for computers.

TAKE-HOME FOLDERS: Your child will bring his/her take-home folder home everyday to share with you. It should come back to school every morning.

NEWSLETTERS: Every week or two, I will send a class newsletter home with your child, usually on Mondays. Please review it carefully for updates on things that are happening in our room, what we are learning, activities/events that are scheduled, and needs that we have for the class.

CLASS WEBSITE: Our classroom's website is www.missversteeg.com. I update this weekly with the newsletter, class announcements, upcoming

events, photo galleries of our class at work, and more. There are also links to many games to help your children practice reading and math skills. I encourage you to check it out often!

SCHEDULE: School starts at 8:15. It is very important for your child to not miss any of this instructional time, so please make every effort to have your child to school on time. We dismiss each day at 3:15.

SPELLING: Each Monday, a list of spelling words will come home. Please keep this list handy so you and your child can practice them often. I also post them to my website and our practice site --

www.spellingcity.com/cathyversteeg/. We take our tests on Fridays.

SNACKS: Through grant funding, students will be given a fresh fruit or vegetable for snack daily. Sometimes we need to supplement the snack, especially when the fruit or veggie is something a little more unusual for our taste buds! 😊 Each student needs to bring 2 packages of crackers, pretzels, etc. to school as soon as possible to stock our snack cupboard.

BIRTHDAYS: If your child wishes, he/she may bring treats to share with the class on their birthday. We will celebrate all August birthdays during the first few weeks of school. We will celebrate June and July birthdays during May. Please do NOT send birthday invitations to school unless you are inviting all the girls or boys.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you have. I can be reached by e-mail (cathy.versteeg@k12.sd.us) or phone (Longfellow - 995-3092).

Miss VerSteeg

