



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, is retired from teaching 1st grade at LB. Williams. My dad, Dave, teaches first year telecommunications and SCADA students at Mitchell Tech. My younger brother, John, is starting his 6th 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 thirteenth 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 22nd.** 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.

LEARNING LAB: NEW to our classroom this year is our Learning Lab area! I'm very excited about the opportunities this will provide for my 2nd graders! Throughout the year, I may ask for donations for our Learning Lab. Please know that you are NOT ever expected to donate, let alone every time. If you are ever able, it will be very much appreciated!!! More info will come home during the first week of school.

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.

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 summer birthdays on the students' half birthdays. 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

