

Second Grade

*“Train a child in the way he should go and, when he is old, he will not depart from it.” ~Proverbs 22:6*

Our Lady of Guadalupe is renowned as a caring school that provides excellent education in the Catholic tradition. Our distinctive features include:

* Strong parent participation in all aspects of school life;
* Warm, friendly, culturally diverse, small intimate atmosphere;
* Stable faculty-staff tenure and a strong accreditation record.

**Curriculum** – The comprehensive ***second grade curriculum*** includes the following:

* *Religion* classes prepare children for First Reconciliation and First Communion. We study scripture relating to these sacraments, learn Mass responses, and develop a deeper personal relationship with Jesus through daily prayer and reflection.
* *Language Arts* studies use a Reading Workshop model (learning reading strategies for reading independence, writing responses to our reading, developing skills through guided reading groups, and sharing reading experiences with classmates). Language Arts also includes spelling, basic grammar skills, handwriting, and writing paragraphs (opinion, persuasive, informational), personal narratives, friendly letters, and poems. Foundational Skills are taught and strengthened through small group work using the SIPPS curriculum materials (Systematic Instruction in Phonics, Phonemic Awareness and Sight Words).
* *Math* instruction focuses on strengthening addition and subtraction skills while learning how to add and subtract multi-digit numbers where regrouping is involved. Students work toward mastering skills such as counting money, interpreting simple graphs, comparing numbers, and quick recall of add/subtract facts to 20. We will also learn about probability and geometric concepts.
* *Science* uses FOSS curriculum kits for three themes: (1) Solids & Liquids – exploring matter and where we find it in our world. (2) Plants – studying the life cycles, growth process, and characteristics of plants & living things. (3) Balance & Motion – experimenting and observing various concepts of balance and motion.
* *Social Studies* exposes students to cultures found in the communities of Seattle, South America, Japan, and Europe. Students learn about the cultures of each of these countries, comparing them to each other as a way of discovering the beauty of diversity in the world.
* *Second Step* is a violence prevention curriculum that is used throughout the year to teach responsible, peaceful behaviors. *Talking About Touching* is an Archdiocesan abuse prevention curriculum designed to develop communication skills that can help protect children from sexual abuse.
* *Art* is incorporated into the classroom learning on an ongoing basis. Twice a month we welcome Nat Herridge from Smart with Art, into our classroom for more formal art instruction.
* *P.E. –* **P.E. days are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (and sometimes Thursdays for make-up classes)**. Please make sure your child wears or brings appropriate shoes for running; shoes that tie or velcro, secure on the feet with good tracking soles. \*Please, no boots, flats, Tom’s, backless or heeled shoes.\*Girls should wear shorts, tights or leggings with their jumper.Students can remove their sweater or sweatshirt as they heat up so, please make sure they have their names on them. *Thank you!*
* *Library, Technology, Spanish, and Music* are part of the general curriculum*.*

**2nd Grade Service Project** – Community Service and Stewardship, as firmly rooted in Catholic Social Teaching, are integral parts of an OLG education. Our service project is caring for our parish church. Students will make weekly visits to the church to make sure it is neat and tidy for community worship. Through this service, students will gain a deeper understanding and familiarity with the physical space of the church, which will be a great addition to their sacramental preparations this year.

**Daily Schedule** – Mrs. Hoch is scheduled to be teaching on Mondays, Thursdays, & Fridays. Ms. Zbaracki is scheduled to be teaching on Tuesdays & Wednesdays. See the attached schedule for an idea of the flow of our day-to-day activities.

***\*\*\*Note: Early Dismissal (2:15pm) will be every Wednesday, beginning next Week(Sept. 12).\*\*\****

**Homework** – Expect an average of 20-30 minutes per day, covering a variety of subjects. Reading, Math, & Spelling will be most prevalent as we work to solidify their basic skills in these foundational areas. We will send homework assignments on a daily basis to ensure the assignments align with the day’s instruction. Most of the time we will ask for the assignment to be returned the next day. Please send a note if, for some reason, your child is unable to complete the assignment that night. It’s fine to hand it in later – we just want to know that it didn’t simply get lost in transit. When we have bigger projects due, the children will have up to two or three weeks to complete them, depending on the project. Please let us know if your child is struggling with a particular assignment so that we can accommodate their needs in the classroom.

**Take Home Folders** – Students will bring home their Take Home folder every day. Please check these folders on a regular basis. We will ask students to place important communication papers (such as Field Trip forms & newsletters) in their Take Home folders. Throughout the year, we will give students packets of corrected work for your review. If a paper has an asterisk (\*) in the top corner, please have your child correct the paper and return it to us to be re-checked. If there is no note or asterisk on the papers, then they are yours to keep. This will be one way of keeping you informed of what we are learning in the classroom.

**Parent Volunteers** – Throughout the year we have projects that need to be done in the classroom and projects that can be done at home. Let us know if you’re interested in helping out this year. We will wait until October to have parents helping with in-classroom projects so students have a chance to settle into their daily routines & practices. The Archdiocese mandates that any adult who has direct contact with our children MUST go through the “Safe Environment” training *before* they may participate in school activities with the children. There are many sessions of the training available. Check the archdiocesan website for details: [www.VirtusOnline.org](http://www.VirtusOnline.org). Furthermore, volunteers must have a recent background check completed and on file with the school. If you are planning to help with our class in any way this year, please be sure to make arrangements to attend one of the trainings and make sure you have sent in a Background Check form (complete BOTH sides, please).

**Communication** – Most classroom newsletters and notes will be sent to you via email & posted on the website. Please let us know if you prefer hard copies of communications and we will happily provide them to you. (Please send a written note telling us you’d prefer hard copies.) We ask that we not be disrupted by phone calls or unannounced visits during the school day, unless there is an emergency, as it is very distracting for both the children and us. If you need to contact us, email tends to be the best way: [rhoch@guadalupe-school.org](mailto:rhoch@guadalupe-school.org), [bzbaracki@guadalupe-school.org](mailto:bzbaracki@guadalupe-school.org). ***Please include BOTH of us on all email communications so we can best support your child’s learning this year.*** (Note: If you try to contact us and receive no response, PLEASE call/email us again. Do not assume that we have actually received your message.) We are happy to meet with you individually about your student at any point in the year, and for any reason. It is best to email to set an appointment to ensure our undivided attention during our meeting.

**Birthdays** – We love to celebrate birthdays (or half-birthdays, for those of us with summer birthdays). You are welcome to send treats in for your child’s celebration (we have 20 students in our group). *Please just give us a “heads up” in advance so we can plan some celebration time into our day, and so we can plan treats for children who have allergies.* Birthday celebrations almost always happen either during lunch or at the very end of the school day.

# **Field Trips** – We are looking into some new & exciting field trips for 2nd graders this year. We will get dates to you as soon as we can. Note that if you’d like to help with any field trip opportunity, all volunteers must have Background Checks & “Called to Protect/Safe Environment” training completed before participating on these trips. Please start thinking about driving and chaperoning for these trips. We will need quite a few adults to help get us places. All of our trips happen RAIN or SHINE…we, of course, are already praying for warm, sunny days. ☺

Look for permission slips and volunteer forms to come home about three weeks before the scheduled trip. Please return the forms promptly to help us coordinate drivers, small groups, and finances for the outings.

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION – IMPORTANT DATES**

*Save these dates!!! Below is schedule of Sacramental Preparation dates. Please mark your calendars NOW; these gatherings are really important and attendance is mandatory for those planning to have children receive sacraments this year. Plan to have at least one (1) parent AND your 2nd grader attend each of the following.*

***Family Preparation Sundays (FPS):***Sacramental Preparation II families should plan to attend the following preparation sessions for First Reconciliation & First Communion. Family Preparation Sundays are **Sundays 9:30–10:45am** in the Parish Life Center (Gym) followed by 11:00 Mass. Parent/Guardians AND first sacrament children should plan to attend these gatherings:

\* September 16 – Orientation & Welcome

\* October 14

*\* November 4 – Rite of Enrollment @ 11:00 Mass*

\* December 9

\* March 10

***Family Faith Sunday:*** You are ***strongly*** encouraged toattend the Family Faith Sunday gathering on November 4th (9:30-10:45am) before attending the 11:00 Mass. On that Sunday, Fr. Jack will be doing a special blessing over the first sacrament children (Rite of Enrollment), which is a very special opportunity for the community to pray with them (and you) as they begin their journey towards First Reconciliation & First Communion.

***Family Learning Center Saturdays – Self-Guided Reflection Time with your Child (10:00am-1:00pm)***

We will have learning centers set up in the Parish Life Center (Gym). Parents/Guardians and your child(ren) come at your own convenience to work through the learning centers. Please plan at least 90 minutes to have adequate time to visit each station.

\* Saturday, January 12 – preparing for First Reconciliation

\* Saturday, April 13 – preparing for First Communion

***Home Preparation*** – “Together: Preparing at Home” (for both First Reconciliation & First Communion)

Parents/Guardians will be expected to use these resources at home, to help prepare your child/family for these First sacraments. They are simple resources to help guide prayer and discussion around the sacraments, making it a very special year for your entire family. Before receiving each first sacrament, families will be asked to turn in a written reflection about their preparation process.

***First Reconciliation Celebration –*** Sat., February 9 (10:00-11:30am)

***First Communion:***

Sat. April 27 – Morning of Reflection w/Rehearsal (10:00am – 12:00pm), Parish Life Center (gym)

Parents & students attend

Sat. May 4 – First Communion Celebration (5:30pm Mass)

*NOTE: All families participating in first sacraments this year* ***MUST complete registration and record forms*** *for the parish. These forms will be available at the Orientation gathering on September 16th. You will need to turn in a copy of your child’s Baptismal certificate with the registration form.*

**SAVE THESE DATES!!**

Here are important dates for you to mark on your calendar.

### Sacramental Preparation Dates

Sacraments are intended to be family/communal celebrations of the presence of Christ in our midst. As such, here at OLG we ask parents to grow in the sacraments along with their children. Therefore, we require families receiving first sacraments to attend an Orientation Gathering, 3 Family Preparation Sundays (FPS), and 3 Saturday preparation days. These meetings are mandatory; we need at least one parent/guardian & your 2nd grader to attend. Note: Absences from these gatherings may result in your child not receiving the sacraments. Families are also expected to use the home preparation resources, *Together: Preparing at Home* throughout the year to prepare for these sacraments. We will provide these resources at the Orientation Gathering. Please mark your calendars now and save these dates. In the event of an unexpected scheduling conflict, please contact Helen Oesterle (heleno@olgseattle.org) as soon as possible.

\*\*Also, please note that ALL Registration forms are DUE at the October 16th gathering. **Please plan to include a *copy* of your child’s Baptismal certificate with your registration form.**

**RECONCILIATION DATES:**

Sunday, September 16 (9:30 – 10:45am)– Orientation & Welcome

Sunday, October 14 – FPS (9:30-10:45, followed by 11:00 Mass)

\* Sunday, November 4 – Family Faith Sunday (9:30-10:45, followed by 11:00 Mass) Rite of Enrollment \*

Sunday, December 9 – FPS (9:30-10:45, followed by 11:00 Mass)

Saturday, January 12 – Family Learning Centers\* (10:00am-1:00pm) preparing for First Reconciliation

**Saturday, February 9, 2017 – Class Celebration of First Reconciliation – Rite II (10:00-11:30am)**

*\* We strongly recommend you attend the Faith Family Sunday gathering on November4th before the 11:00am Mass, though it is not a required preparation session.*

**FIRST COMMUNION DATES:**

Sunday, March 10 – FPS (9:30-10:45, followed by 11:00 Mass)

Saturday, April 13 – Family Learning Centers\* (11:00am-3:00pm) preparing for First Communion

Saturday, April 27 – Morning of Reflection w/Rehearsal, 10:00am – 12:00pm

**Sat., May 4, 2017 – First Communion Celebration (5:30pm Mass)**

*\*NOTE****: Family Learning Center Saturdays*** *– Centers will be available in the Parish Life Center (gym) between 10:00-1:00pm. Plan to arrive NO LATER THAN 1:00pm so you have plenty of time to work through them as a family before they are closed & cleaned up at 2:00pm.*