Dear families,

I hope that your summer vacation has been a wonderful experience thus far. With only a few weeks left of vacation, I also hope that you have as much fun as possible and enjoy the sunny warm weather while it’s still around.

So far this summer, I have spent time swimming in my pool, visiting my mom in New Hampshire (which also includes spending time at my favorite water park, Whale’s Tale), going to the beach and finding sand dollars, as well as volunteering at a summer camp for military kids. It sure has been a busy summer, with many more events and fun times to enjoy.

As we near the start of the school year, I am sure many of you are starting to prepare for the first day of school by shopping for new sneakers, clothes or school supplies. A few parents have already asked me what items are needed for the start of the year, or what things would be useful for the classroom, so I’d like to share a few little things that might be of some help as you plan for second grade.

First, as for school supplies, I like to have a community of supplies that we all share. I typically store these materials in caddies and the students can access these items as needed. Some suggestions for donated items, which are needed all year long, are: pencils (kids love mechanical pencils, but wooden ones are fine too), eraser heads (I can go through a box of 20 in a week), regular erasers, glue sticks (LOTS OF THEM), dry eraser markers (chisel tip and fine point), Crayola markers (fine tipped), colored pencils, a variety of Post-It notes and Post-It tabs (I use a pop-up note holder), and Clorox wipes. Remember, these are just suggestions, and any item will be very helpful!

The one thing that I would like everyone to come to school with is a 1 1/2” binder, white, with the clear view sleeves so that I can insert a binder cover page and a student name into each binder. This will be their portfolio at the end of the year. Also, a lunch box or bag to keep their daily snack, and/or lunch in would be very helpful.

Second, I have created a closed group Facebook page for our classroom. I know that many of you are on Facebook, and I thought that this option could be another way to communicate with my parents, share photos, and more. As a closed group, you cannot join the group without permission, or see any posts unless you are a member. All I need is your email address. With this email, I will send you a request to add you to the group. If you would like to join this group, please send me your email address and I will be sure to add you. The Facebook page is called “Mrs. Houghton’s Classroom.” Feel free to search for it. I also have a website at <http://mrshoughton.weebly.com> -here you can find valuable information about our classroom and second grade. (Some portions are still under construction as I have moved grade levels over the year…)

Lastly, I am trying a new application this year, which will allow me to send notifications via messaging that works best for you. The application is called Class Messenger. Please consider joining my class in order to stay up to date with events, messages and notifications. I’ve enclosed instructions for the application.

Well, I think that is about it—for now anyway. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me ([khoughton@rsu10.org](mailto:khoughton@rsu10.org)) or contact me via private message on Facebook (Kelley Poulin Houghton). Again, I hope the rest of your summer is full of fun and lots of sun. I can’t wait to see you all on August 31st!

☺ Mrs. Houghton

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