

Welcome to Second Grade Class of 2029



Greetings from Ms. Kelli

Hello! I would like to welcome your child to second grade! My name is Kelli Barnett and I am looking forward to being your child's teacher. I am sure you are just as eager to learn about me as I am about you. Because of this, I would like to take this opportunity to give you some background information. I graduated in 1998 from ETSU with a B.A. in Communication and a minor in Art. In May of 2003 I earned my Master of Arts in Teaching from ETSU. I was then invited to join the University School faculty as the 2nd Grade Instructor. I am currently working towards my doctoral degree in Educational Leadership at ETSU. I am currently "all but dissertation" with an expected graduation date of this December. This will be my sixteenth year teaching 2nd grade at University School. I am proud to work at University School where best practices in education are always a priority and with this extraordinary faculty.

On a personal note I live in the Tree

Street neighborhood in Johnson City with my husband, Aaron, and my children, Greer and Ella Rose. Aaron has a masters in Education and works in the middle school talent search program at Tusculum College. Ella Rose is going into seventh grade and Greer will be in eleventh grade at University School.

University School is the school of choice for me, as it is for you. I believe the environment that the faculty of University School offers students is enriching and innovative. I assure you this year will be. I have worked hard to set up a classroom environment that will allow your child to thrive. I have also planned an exciting and challenging curriculum based on Tennessee State Board of Education Standards as well as national curriculum standards. It is going to be a terrific year!

Welcome to Second Grade!

Lunch & Snack:

Second grade will likely be eating lunch at 10:30 this year, although the final schedule hasn't been released yet. We will have a break/snack time later in the day so if you think your child will have a hard time making it until the 3:00 dismissal please feel free to send in an individual snack for them. A bottle of water labeled with your child's name is also a good thing to have at school at all times. I suggest some sort of bpa free bottle that can be refilled and then taken home every few days to be washed. Water is the only drink that is allowed in the classroom with the exception of parties and other special occasions. When our bodies are hungry and thirsty our brains are not going to be ready to learn.

How can I help my child?

- ✓ Read to your child on a regular basis
- ✓ Let your child see you read
- ✓ Praise your child for work, and display it for others to see
- ✓ Don't expect or demand perfection
- ✓ If you have criticisms or suggestions, make them in a helpful way
- ✓ Teach your child to do things for him/herself rather than doing work for him or her
- ✓ Try to have a special place where your child can study
- ✓ Encourage your child's curiosity and interests
- ✓ Turn off the television more
- ✓ Share your own experiences and goals with your child
- ✓ Read your child's messages from school
- ✓ Talk about what is happening at school with your child
- ✓ Volunteer your time and talents to the school when you can
- ✓ Enjoy your child as you grow and learn together

As a Parent, I Promise... (no date).
<http://www.ael.org/rel/fc/promis.html>

Car line pick up tag numbers will stay the same for next school year. Be sure and hang onto your tag from last year! If you are new to University School you will be assigned a car tag number for afternoon dismissal.



Parent/Teacher Communication

There are many ways that I will communicate with you throughout the school year. The primary ways are via a newsletter that will come home with you on Fridays and on our class remind app. **Please see the enclosed instructions about how to sign up for our class remind. You can select to receive messages on your phone, via email, or both. You can also log in online and see our class remind. This will be our primary announcements forum so please sign up before the first day of second grade.**

I would also like to give you a heads up that mornings are a hectic and difficult time for me to talk individually with parents because I am finishing up preparations for the school day. If you have something you need to communicate at the beginning of the school day the best approach is to write it down and send it in with your child. I read all notes from home promptly. Also, if at any time you feel the need to set up a conference, please don't hesitate to ask. I welcome any opportunity to discuss your child and their needs.

2nd Grade Homework

Homework folders will go home everyday. Most days there will be a homework assignment, but some days there won't be. It should take your second grader around 20 minutes to complete homework. Your child will have a planner to write their homework assignments inside. You can see what homework your child will have each day by checking their daily planner. This is going to place more responsibility on your child. I will teach them how to use and record in their planners and you need to teach your child to be responsible, check their planners, and complete their homework each night. Some completed class work will typically be sent home in the folder. Please keep in mind I keep a lot of student work for portfolio and student self evaluation purposes. However, you will get your child's portfolio at the end of the year. I like to focus on the process of learning and not the product. Many of our classroom activities involve "hands-on" learning. I will also send home a weekly newsletter on Fridays that will let you know what we have been studying in class as well as important announcements. It is very important that you read this letter each week so you will know what is happening in our classroom. You should assist your child with their homework when needed, but please allow them to do the work themselves. It is helpful for you to check the accuracy of your child's homework and help them with any misunderstandings. However, remember to allow them to make any corrections and please don't demand perfection. Students who do not turn in complete homework on time are typically required to complete it during their free time at school. This helps students build responsibility and accountability. Reading book bags will also be sent home regularly to promote reading at home. Please look for more information to come home at the beginning of the school year about homework. Please have your child come in the room daily and put away their belongings and allow them to turn in their folder and planner each day rather than doing it for them. I ask this so they can learn to build responsibility.

Parent Homework for the first day of school:

1. Please send in a family photo that we can post in our room or you can e-mail a digital copy for us to print out.
2. Please tell me a hope or dream you have for your child this year. Pick one thing related to school- it can be social or academic- and write it in the cloud below. Cut the cloud out and put your child's name somewhere on it. Send this with your child on the first day of school. Please consider these will be posted in our room.

Hopes & Dreams for the Year

University School
E.T.S.U. Box 70632
Johnson City, TN 37614

Phone: 423-439-4271

Email: barnettk@etsu.edu

Visit our class website at:
<http://www.etsu.edu/coe/uschool/faculty/barnettk/default.aspx>

School Hours 8:00-3:00

Drop-off: Students may be dropped off at 7:30, but should wait in the cafeteria until the 7:50 bell. The classroom will be open at 7:50. Students who arrive after 8:00 will be considered tardy and must go to the office for a tardy slip. Once your child is in the room, the job of putting their belongings away and beginning their day is up to them. Please allow your child this independence. Please quickly tell your child good-bye and help us to be ready to start our day promptly when the last bell rings at 8:00. Good-byes and conversations after this time disrupt our day and make it difficult for students to stay focused on our morning meeting.

Pick-up: Dismissal is at 3:00 from the side door. Please only pick up your student early when absolutely necessary. We are busy until the last minute of our day. If you need to check your child out early please do so through the office. Students must be picked up by 3:15.

Children are apt to live up to what you believe of them. -Lady Bird Johnson

School Supplies

I am including our class supply list so your child will be prepared when school begins. Please bring these in as soon as possible. Keep in mind that we share all of our classroom materials. I am asking for a minimal amount and may ask for donations at a later date if we run out of supplies. Because we have limited individualized storage, it is a good idea to send a backpack with your child daily. Your child's backpack will hang on a hook in the co-attroom and it will serve as a storage place for personal items, lunches, library books, and take home messages. Students who do not carry backpacks have difficulty getting home with homework and other messages. I have also found that backpacks that do not have wheels and that are not too bulky work best in our limited space. If you have any questions about this supply list, please feel free to contact me.

Label With Name:

- 1 White 1 1/2 inch 3-Ring Binder with a plastic cover for portfolio (label name on inside not on outside-this will be their portfolio that you will receive at the end of the school year)
- 1 package of 30-40 clear plastic sheet protectors for your child's work in their portfolios (go ahead and take out of package and put inside 3-Ring Binder)
- 1 set of computer headphones- a cheap set will work just fine but they will need to be replaced if they break during our school year- we will use them often (labeled clearly with name)
- 4 plastic folders with 3 prongs inside and folders on the inside pocket labeled with name somewhere on the inside

Unlabeled materials:

- 2 packages of washable markers
- 2 boxes of tissues (2 will be shared with our special area teachers)
- 2 glue sticks
- 50 or more plain yellow number 2 pencils already sharpened if at all possible- this helps us out sooooo much
- 4 rolls of a good brand tape- get the kind that can be used without a dispenser (cheap brands tend to not work well with our developing fine motor skills)
- 1 package of dry erase markers
- 1 container of Clorox wipes