

PROBE:2nd Grade Problem Solvers

Bea Wilmering

Probe Gifted Education Program
STEAM High School School
At McCluer South Berkeley
201 Brotherton Ln., 63135
314-595-3913
bwilmering@fergflor.org

The ability to analyze and solve a new problem is an important life skill which adults utilize every day. In addition, this skill helps children succeed in academic tasks. Children who are able to approach new academic challenges logically are more able to solve problems independently or understand an explanation presented to them. This skill is also invaluable in test taking situations. When children are presented with unfamiliar test items, they are more likely to figure out the correct answer when they have strong logic and problem solving skills.

Second grade will focus on developing problem solving skills and a growth mindset while introducing the students to the expectations of the Probe curriculum. Many of our assignments will be completed together as the students develop the skills to solve the problems independently. For some students the Probe activities can be very difficult and unsettling because they are used to feeling competent in their school work. Developing perseverance when tasks are difficult is an important piece of our curriculum. Please encourage your child that challenges are good and everybody makes mistakes when they are learning.

Another frustration for some 2nd grade students stems from the strategy games we play. One goal of these games is to improve strategy skills, however an even more important facet of the task is to develop good sportsmanship. Bright children often have difficulty losing a game or are not very gracious winners. Good sportsmanship is a necessity in our classroom. Again, please reinforce good sportsmanship goals at home because this is very challenging for fast learners.

During the second and third quarters of the year, we will dive into a project based learning study of the world's oceans. The students will learn beginning research skills and incorporate the information they collect into a project. Each student will complete their own independent project. The students will also work together to complete a service project focused on the ocean's needs.