Dear Parents,

 My name is Olivia Buffington, and I am your child’s 2nd grade teacher. This is my 4th year teaching 2nd grade at The Academy, and I love being a part of the Mustang family. My husband and I live in Rock Hill with our two dogs and cat. You will probably hear a lot of stories about them this year. My mom volunteers on Friday afternoons in my classroom. We call her Carrot (long story), and you will probably hear a lot about her too.

 I grew up in Chester, SC and graduated from Chester High School. Go Cyclones! I then earned my teaching degree from Winthrop University. Go Eagles! I spent my first seven years teaching 3rd grade at Chester Park. Then, I spent 4 years teaching 3rd grade in York. I am very happy to be back in Chester teaching in my hometown.

 Second grade is my favorite grade to teach. We have so much fun as we learn the content. Reading and writing are my personal favorite subjects, because I love introducing students to new books and then studying what those authors do well to help us be better authors too. In math, I mostly use small groups to teach the skills. I work with my students on the level they need in order to be successful. We switch between science and social studies units. Most of our big science experiments will fall on Fridays. I like to call them Fun Fridays.

 I use a method of teaching called Whole Brain Teaching. We do hands-on activities, movement, discussion between students, and teamwork as we learn. Each day students will work towards a class behavior goal. Once they reach the goal the class will get a prize. We normally do these prizes on Fridays. I will let you know in advance so you’re prepared. Some prize days we’ve had before are pajama day, costume day, slime day, stuffed animal day, no homework for a week, and many more.

Each week your child will come home with a newsletter in the front of the 3 ring binder. There will be a spot for me to send a quick note about behavior IF NEEDED. I use a coin system to encourage positive behavior and would like to not use a clip up/down system this year. So, I will use the note area of the newsletter ONLY if I need to alert you to a behavior issue. I also send home graded papers and papers from the office in the green folder each week. It’s best to check the green folder daily. There will also be a study guide folder in the notebook to keep you up to date on upcoming quizzes/tests.

We will begin this year with only reading homework each day. Your child will come home with a reading book on his/her level each Monday. He/she will use this same book to complete the short homework assignments each night. Your child should read 15 minutes and is welcome to read other books as well as the one they have for the week. There are some options for spelling activities in the 3 ring binder you could do at home to practice your child’s spelling words. Their words are on the newsletter sheet at the front of the binder.

I am available every day through email at obuffington@chester.k12.sc.us. You may call the office and leave a message for me to get back with you as well. Please allow me 24 hours to respond. Our class’s website is <http://buffyscrew.weebly.com>. This letter as well as the supply list can be found there. Our school website can be found at <http://www.atlchester.com/> and is also a great resource for school information.

I know many of you are concerned about the progress your child has and will make during the recent school closures. I will be working very closely with you this year to keep you informed of how your child is doing. We will work through this together.

 Sincerely,

 Mrs. Buffington