

Jennifer Opp

Loma Linda Academy Elementary

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**About the Teacher**

My name is Jennifer Opp. I love teaching! I have enjoyed how God has led me and love the adventure of serving Him.

I graduated from La Sierra University with my Bachelors in Liberal Studies and my Masters in Elementary Education. I was also a student at Loma Linda Academy for junior high and high school (way back in the day ☺).

God is so good! I praise Him for the opportunity to work in Adventist Education where I can share my faith while teaching students academics and life skills. I look forward to an amazing year with your students!

**Communication**

 I want to hear from you. The best way to get in touch is via e-mail – jopp@lla.org. I check my e-mail numerous times a day. A call to our classroom will be answered as best we can. If you leave a message, I’ll get back with you as soon as possible. If you would like to schedule an appointment just let me know. After school is the best time to stop by with any questions. I look forward to working with you in order to make this year a success for your student.

**Website**

Check out our classroom website:

* Glance at the Week
* Homework Policy
* Important Documents
* Helpful Information
* And so much more!

**Field Trip Information – THERE WILL BE NO FIELD TRIPS UNTIL AT LEAST JANUARY 2021**

Chaperones:

* Your help as parent chaperones is needed and greatly appreciated.
* All drivers need to complete the driver information form and return it to the office prior to the first field trip (every year).
* Background checks are due every two years. **This takes a minimum of 2 weeks to process.**
* Volunteer Commitment Forms are due every year.

Transportation: Cars will be needed for most of the field trips.

Permission Slips: A separate permission slip for each trip will be sent home prior to the trip. It will need to be signed and returned by the specified date.

Dress: We will wear our snazzy purple field trip t-shirts and pants/shorts of your choice.

One Thing to Remember:

* ***Siblings are not allowed on field trips at any point. (****This is a LLA policy.)*

*The total cost for field trips/T-shirts this year has already been included in tuition.*

**Classroom Helpers – if/when we are back on campus**

Parents/Grandparents are always welcome in our classroom to help with:

* Class parties
* Field trips
* Craft projects
* Science experiments
* Guest speakers
* Let me know if you have ideas of how you’d like to help
* Please schedule ahead of time with me so I be ready with projects for you ☺

**Second Grade Curriculum**

**Bible:** SDA Encounter

* Students will study God and Biblical demonstrations of His power illustrating His love, care, and concern for us.
* Students will read the stories directly from God’s word.

**Reading:** Houghton Mifflin Reading California Edition

* Students will read stories and practice comprehension, vocabulary, summarizing, questioning, and more.
* Accelerated Reader (See: *Accelerated Reader*)

**Phonics/Spelling:**

* Saxon Phonics/Spelling Program
* Tests on Fridays

**Math:** “Big Ideas” – this curriculum is new this year (2020-2021)

* Concepts covered include:
	+ Place value
	+ Regrouping
	+ Two- and three-digit addition and subtraction
	+ Geometry (shapes)
	+ Fractions (whole, halves, thirds, and fourths)
	+ Data
	+ Telling time
	+ Money
	+ Measurement

**Science:** By Design Science

* Students will explore Earth & Space Science, The Human Body, Physical Science, and Life Science.
* A special Science Journal will make Science interactive and exciting!

**Social Studies:**

* myWorld Social Studies – We Do Our Part
* Many life skills lessons are integrated into worships and Bible.

**Handwriting:** A Reason for Handwriting

* Students will write daily for practice.

**Accelerated Reading (AR)**

One of the exciting programs we have here at LLA is Accelerated Reader. Here are some helpful details:

Levels: AR books are color-coded and students will move up to the next level depending on their scores on the STAR testing at the end of every quarter, as long as they average 85% or higher on their quizzes. **\* Note: The color coding system is different than in first grade.**

Points: Students earn points by taking quizzes on the computer after they read an AR book. Each book is leveled and has an assigned point value. Long books have higher point values. The points are given based on how many words are in the book.

A.R. Books: Each student will bring **one to two** AR books home each night with them in their AR pocket. Students need to bring them to school and take them home EVERY day. The pocket will protect AR books so they don’t get bent or torn inside a backpack. Without the H.O.M.E. Folder, students will not be allowed to take AR books home.

Goals: Each student will have a personalized reading goal based on their reading ability. More advanced readers will have more challenging AR point goals and readers showing early readiness will have goals they can achieve. The objective is to encourage students to do their very best.

Quizzes: Students will be given time during the day to take AR quizzes. The goal is to be ready to take an AR test almost every day. Reading longer books would be the obvious exception to this goal. The scores students receive on their quizzes determine how many points they receive.

**Themes for Social Studies & Science**

1st Semester:

August My Community

September Meeting Needs

October The World Around Us

November Celebrating Traditions/

Past & Present

December Earth Science

2nd Semester:

January Earth Science

February The Human Body

March Simple Machines

April Plants/Animals

May Our Country

\*These themes are subject to change.

If you have any expertise or materials that would enhance these units, please let me know. Thanks!

***Classroom Management – Remote Learning***

**Teacher’s Role:**

* Provide a safe, caring, and engaging blended learning environment for all students
* See to create special moments and fun social interaction
* Provide whole-class and small group instruction
* Post live and/or recorded instruction daily

**Expectations for Students:**

* Attendance is required
* Be on time
* Be an active learner. Ask for help when needed.
* Do your very best
* Work in an area free from distractions
* Be respectful when learning, speaking, and writing in the chat box
* Turn your video off if you go to the bathroom
* Keep your sound on mute until asked to speak
* Stay in one place during class
* Do not take pictures or videos of others or the class
* Turn in assignments on time

**Parent Roles:**

* Your role as a parent/guardian is to support your child in their educational journey.
	+ Set up space in the home for your child
	+ For the youngest learners, provide a schedule and structure
* Communicate with the teacher if any assistance is needed
* Make sure your child meets all class appointments with the teacher
* At the start of the school year, you may need to assist your child with accessing the live blended learning instructions until it becomes natural to them
* Assist your child with accessing the classroom Learning Management System (LMS)

***Classroom Management – On Campus***

**Rules:**

1. Come to class prepared with all supplies and homework complete.
2. Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
3. Listen when others are talking.
4. Share and take turns.
5. Participate in class activities.
6. Follow directions and all school rules.
7. Use kind words.

**Ms. Opp’s Expectations**

For Students:

* Do YOUR personal best work
* Turn in work on time
* Follow school and classroom rules
* Do work *neatly*
* Write your name and number on all papers
* Hand-deliver all papers I send home to your parents

For Parents:

* Ensure that your child is doing his/her homework
	+ Please support him/her and answer questions as needed, but refrain from doing homework or projects for him/her.
* Read with your child daily/show interest in their reading.
* Help your child arrive at school on time.
* Communicate with me any way that I can help your child to excel.
* Pray for me and for your child *daily.*

**Homework**

Second graders should spend about 20 minutes on average a night on homework. This does not

include daily reading time.

Homework comes in four types:

1. Math – Each week, students will have a few pages of math homework. These pages help them practice the concepts we’re learning in class.
2. Theme-Related Projects – Occasionally, students may have to do theme-related activities to reinforce the Science/Social Studies concepts we learn in class.
3. Reading – students should read a minimum of 30 minutes each day (combination of in class and at home)
4. Unfinished work – any work that is not finished during the school day will go home for homework

**H.O.M.E. (Help Organizing My Education) Folder**

* Travels back and forth from school to home and back each day.
* Please initial and record the number of minutes read each day on the Behavior/Reading Log Form.
* Feel free to write me a note on the lined paper.
* Please find a special place to store graded work at home.
	+ The H.O.M.E. folder should be emptied of “Super-Duper Work” every weekend.

**Make-up Work**

When students are absent, it is the student’s responsibility to:

1. Take all missed work home.
2. Turn in the assignments on time
	1. They have as many days to turn them in as they were absent. (Example: missed two days = have two days to turn in late work)

**Parents:** Please contact me *in advance* (within a minimum of 5 days – new LLA policy)if you know that your child will be absent. Please fill out the PASA form provided by the office.

**Grading**

85% - 100% E = Excellent

70% - 84% S = Satisfactory

69% or below N = Needs improvement

**Birthdays**

We love to celebrate birthdays in our classroom!

Here are some helpful guidelines for birthday celebrations:

* Please e-mail or call to let me know if you plan on sending a special treat to celebrate your child’s birthday.
	+ Please send enough treats for the whole class. There are 26 students in our class.
	+ Make it simple
		- Popsicles, cookies, cupcakes, etc.
	+ ***Please do not bring treats with peanuts due to severe allergic reactions.***
	+ Best time is 12:00 pm (during lunch)
* No presents, candles, or balloons at school (school policy).
* Please ONLY send party invitations to be passed out in class when ALL students or all of one gender are invited.
	+ Thanks for understanding the feelings of second graders. ☺

**Snacks**

A good breakfast makes for a great day of learning.

Since breakfast is so early for the students, they may eat a healthy snack during morning recess.

Here are some awesome snack ideas:

* Apples, grapes, or any fresh fruit
* Dried fruit
* Carrot sticks, celery, peppers, or other veggies
* Cheese sticks
* Chips, popcorn, or pretzels

\*NO cookies, candy, or other sweets during this time (school policy).\*

**Water**

* Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school with them **(all drinking fountains will be closed!)**
* Staying hydrated is so important!
* I’ll be issuing a water challenge: drink at least one water bottle a day at school.
* We’ll be sending the water bottle home each Friday for a good cleaning ☺

Let’s have a WONDERFUL year!! ☺