

# THE PARK SCHOOL

**2019-2020** CURRICULUM GUIDE



GRADE 2

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## OVERVIEW

In Grade 2, students work toward mastering basic reading and mathematical skills and gaining a greater awareness of their role in the school and other communities. By combining high standards with a flexible and supportive atmosphere, teachers help children build confidence in themselves as individuals and as learners. With this increased confidence and competence, second graders are able to pursue more challenging learning activities involving critical and abstract thinking.

Second graders are expected to read on a nightly basis, as well as complete homework assignments once per week. After spring vacation, we adjust our expectations to include a nightly written response to reading. As part of the social curriculum, second graders build a yearlong partnership with residents at an assisted living center for seniors. Lower Division classrooms have access to shared sets of iPads, giving students and teachers the ability to utilize age-appropriate and collaborative tools that focus on creativity. Students are beginning to read to learn, and throughout the year they engage in several structured research projects, including the study of a changemaker. Students select and reflect on favorite pieces of work each month to create a second grade portfolio. Students also take part in a yearlong study of five countries and gain skills in comparing and contrasting shelter, food, and clothing across cultures.

The Grade 2 experience is shaped by a yearlong study of both personal and global communities. In celebration of the year's projects, second grade classes create a Global Marketplace in the spring. During this week-long project based learning experience students collaborate on teams to design and create products .

## LITERACY

Grade 2 students' emerging confidence and competence in reading and writing allow them to begin to enjoy these activities to an even greater extent. Multiple opportunities are given for children to practice their rapidly developing skills and to elaborate on their ideas through reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

## Reading

Children read daily in the classroom, either individually or in a group, and they visit the library for reading enjoyment once each week. In grade two, they continue to work on decoding and fluency skills. Second graders are encouraged to use meta-cognitive skills like visualizing, making connections and inferring to make meaning. Throughout the year they encounter a variety of genres such as fiction, non-fiction, biographies, poetry, and fairy tales.

## Writing

In regular workshop periods, teachers implement *The Teacher's College Writing Units of Study*. Children are exposed to a range of genres through read-alouds of children's literature, such as narrative "small moments," information, opinion, realistic fiction, and poetry. Children practice writing in these styles, and over the course of the year produce a portfolio that incorporates written pieces in each genre. Students also learn beginning research skills, such as gathering information from texts and producing simple non-fiction reports and biographies. Students learn to incorporate more accurate spelling as well as basic rules of punctuation and capitalization.

## Spelling and Handwriting

Using the *Wilson Foundations* program, second graders are taught phonics skills, and they work toward long-term mastery of frequently used words. The Foundations program is also used to emphasize correct letter formation, size, and spacing in students' manuscript handwriting.

## MATHEMATICS

The goal of our math program is to promote deep understanding of mathematics and to develop mathematically proficient students who can think, reason, model and solve problems. All students in Kindergarten - Grade 5 use the *Investigations 3rd Edition* program. Park provides opportunities for all students to build a strong foundation of mathematical knowledge while engaging in rich, meaningful, and cognitively demanding activities. Students use mathematical tools and representations to model and solve problems and are asked to communicate their thinking clearly. Students are expected to do more than memorize steps and procedures, but to develop a rigorous understanding of mathematical ideas, compute with fluency, and appreciate the breadth and depth of mathematics.

## Number and Operations

**Whole Numbers:** Students transition to thinking and working with groups of numbers, explore the composition of numbers to 100 and beyond, and develop an understanding of the base-ten structure of our number system. Students develop fluency with addition and subtraction within 100. Second graders make sense of and solve a variety of story problem types involving addition and subtraction, using a variety of contexts (objects, stickers, money, measurements), with unknowns in all positions.

**Foundations of Multiplication:** To lay the foundation for the study of multiplication, students build and model multiplicative situations. They investigate odd and even numbers and multiplicative relationships in contexts where there are two equal groups and groups of two.

**Fractions:** Work with fractions is directly related to geometry. As students fold paper squares, partition geometric shapes into equal parts on geoboards, or put together or take apart GeoBlocks, they investigate halves, thirds, and fourths of squares, rectangles, circles, and prisms. They consider whether or not equal parts of the same whole (i.e., parts of equal area in 2-D shapes or equal volume in 3-D shapes) must look the same.

## Geometry and Measurement

**Geometry:** Students work with 2-D and 3-D shapes, with a particular focus on quadrilaterals. They are introduced to and investigate the structure of rectangular arrays (i.e., made of equal rows and columns of squares). This work also supports student work with number and operations and is part of laying the foundation for multiplication.

**Measurement:** Students study measurement in a variety of contexts. They work with time and money, develop their understanding of length and how it is measured, and solve problems in which they relate addition and subtraction to length.

## Data Analysis

Data investigations engage students in modeling with mathematics. By making predictions and then collecting their own data, students see how data are used to answer a real world question or to give evidence about an issue. They use a variety of representations including picture graphs, Venn diagrams, bar graphs, cube towers, and line plots, as well as their own unique representations, to show the data that they collect.

## SCIENCE

This inquiry based, hands-on program is designed to accomplish two important goals: to provide exciting experiences that extend children’s natural fascination with the world and to help them learn the scientific skills and concepts that they will need in school and in life. The Grade 2 course focuses on scientific investigation: observing, analyzing, discovering, sorting, categorizing, and questioning.

**Measurements:** Students learn about the measurements of volume, mass, length, and time. They also practice with instruments and devices that are used to take measurements, like balances, thermometers, and stop watches.

**Our Solar System:** Second graders study the solar system and the history of human space exploration.

**Simple Machines and Robotics:** Students search the school building and their homes to find and discuss levers, wedges, pulleys, wheels and axles, and screws, and they learn what these simple machines do to make work easier. Students also build simple machines, using LEGO® Education WeDo, and then program their machines to move using Scratch and WeDo software.

**Magnets and Magnetism:** Students study tiny magnets and universal magnetism and everything in between. Magnets of various sizes and strengths are used in class.

*Classes meet twice each week in 40-minute sessions.*

## SOCIAL STUDIES

In Grade 2, children further broaden their knowledge of the relationship between themselves and the world. They study geography using the essential questions, “Are all second graders just like me?” and “Is it weird to be different?” As a class, students study five countries within four continents, focusing on similarities and differences by comparing shelter, food, clothing, celebrations, and toys and games. Through these topics, second graders gain an awareness of how people live in different parts of the world.

Skills that are taught include listening, reading for information, questioning, making connections and inferences, observing and recording observations, comparing and contrasting, and understanding the concepts from multiple points of view.

## ART

As a beginning foundation in studio art, the second grade curriculum encourages students to be creative and explore ways to communicate ideas visually. Using new materials and subject matter, students build and refine the art skills they learned in Grade 1. Over the course of the year, students meet for 40-minute classes twice each week.

Students use various two- and three-dimensional materials to expand their creative thinking. Through drawing, students focus on observation: contour lines, structure, and building a “shape” vocabulary. Students use color to explore line, shape, and composition using color diffusing paper and concentrated liquid watercolors. To connect with their study of global communities, students weave a colorful yarn basket and make large scale paintings inspired by the ancient Indian tradition of Madhubani wall painting. Working in sculpture, they create self-portraits in clay – studying proportion and facial features.

## MUSIC

The general music curriculum, in alignment with the National Association for Music Education standards, consists of singing, listening, playing, movement and performing. Through music, children discover and explore the concepts of tone color, harmony, texture, dynamics, melody, rhythm, and form.

Second graders work to develop rhythmic coordination, vocal accuracy, self-expression, and confidence. Vocal and instrumental instruction focuses on the solfege pitches *sol*, *mi*, *la*, *do*, and *re*, and various rhythmic combinations. A typical class may include echo clapping, pattern reading, antiphonal or ensemble singing, music listening, interpretive movement, and the playing pitched and non-pitched percussion instruments. Students in Grade 2 also begin an exploration of vocal and instrumental music by exploring classical orchestral works, American folk songs, spirituals, jazz, blues and opera. Attention is given to the historical, cultural, and social context of the music.

Park’s music program helps to foster creativity and self-expression, while developing the student’s music skills. Performances and informances are used as learning tools and are opportunities for students to demonstrate what they are learning in music class.

*Classes meet two times per week in 40-minute sessions.*

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In Grade 2, the Physical Education program aims to expand children’s awareness of movement, teach fundamental sport skills as well as, basic motor skills and introduce the importance of physical fitness through a variety of activities. The program encourages each child to progress at his or her own speed and allows for individual differences and interests.

Classes begin with warm-up exercises and physical fitness activities. Students explore movement, develop basic skills using balls and other manipulatives, juggle, jump rope, and participate in gymnastics, circuit stations, and low organizational games. Lead-up games to team and individual sports are introduced. Group problem-solving challenges emphasize the importance of cooperation in achieving a common goal. Good sportsmanship, fair play, and respect for individual differences are stressed at all times.

*Classes meet three times per week in 40-minute sessions.*

## LIBRARY

Ever-increasing academic skills make second grade the perfect time to explore more deeply the distinct areas of the library’s collection. A “Read Around the Library” tour gives students the unique opportunity to learn about the age-appropriate books found in such sections as fiction, fairy and folk tales, biography, poetry, natural sciences, arts and applied arts. Students share their reading and learning through the creation of a online digital video journal.

Students have a regularly scheduled 40-minute library period each week, where formal instruction is balanced with browsing time. Lessons promote developing personal reading interests, collaboration, and authentic publication. Grade 2 students also gain the full responsibility of unlimited checkout privileges. Finally, the library program arranges author visits that deepen the students’ understanding of the professional skill and work that underlie the creation of books.