

The American School in London

Grade 2: Semester 2 Curriculum Guide

By the end of the second reporting period, these are the ideas, concepts, and skills your child will have learned. We acknowledge that all children learn at different paces, and that it takes the students different lengths of time to master skills and concepts.

Approaches to Learning

Grade 2 students learn to be members of a cooperative classroom community using the structures of the Responsive Classroom. Through a daily morning meeting and sharing, students learn the routines and expectations for behavior. We encourage students to continuously be aware of how their actions and words affect others and model it throughout the day. As students continue to grow and develop, both responsibility and independence are expected to increase throughout the year.

Reading

Grade 2 students are instructed in reading in a variety of ways, including guided reading groups with leveled texts, independent reading, buddy reading, and whole group reading activities. Students are guided through a process of selecting books at their independent level to ensure comprehension, enjoyment and good habits. Students in Grade 2 become more independent as readers and are expected to contribute to a literature circle or book group setting in Semester 2. At the end of Grade 2, students meeting expectations are reading books independently at the Fountas and Pinnell Level M.

Writing

Using the Writer's Workshop model, students are exposed to a variety of writing genres, such as opinion and informational writing. Students are led through a process of planning, drafting, revising, editing and publishing their work. Whole class mini-lessons teach students specific writing strategies, such as how to choose a topic and provide supporting statements. Students communicate using clear organization, including transition words. Student/teacher conferences provide an opportunity for more individualized instruction based on the student's needs. Spelling instruction is addressed in a variety of ways, including a focus on high frequency words, spelling patterns, and spelling strategies specific to their own writing.

Speaking and Listening

Students in Grade 2 learn to be respectful, polite listeners to their peers and adults. Starting with a daily morning meeting, students learn to respond appropriately to ideas shared, contribute to classroom discussions by waiting their turn, and welcome feedback by allowing others to ask questions about their thoughts or ideas. As speakers, students learn to articulate their words, pay attention to their volume, and rehearse what they want to say in their mind before speaking. It is important for Grade 2 students to make eye contact, speak clearly, feel confident speaking to others, and practice active listening.

Math

The Grade 2 math curriculum is aligned to the Common Core State Standards, with an emphasis on sense making, reasoning and problem solving. We encourage flexibility in thinking, and encourage students to approach problem solving from a variety of perspectives. Playing math games and the use of manipulatives and models to record and share ideas are an integral part of the curriculum, designed to reinforce concepts and skills. This semester, students deepen their understanding of place value and strategies for the addition and subtraction of two-digit numbers while developing automaticity of facts within 20. The concept of multiplication will be introduced through repeated addition and arrays. Students also further their exploration of measurement and data.

Social Studies

This semester, students continue to build upon the concept of identity by exploring the wider community of our neighborhoods and London. Through read alouds and research students explore their own and other people's 'journey stories'. The concept of immigration is introduced, including exploring refugee stories from around the world.

Science

The second science topic for Grade 2 is a unit on shoreline science. Through investigations, students learn how to sort and classify information, use models to help find out about the world, and make explanations from evidence. The unit concludes with students researching one shoreline organism and using the information to write a report. Students also learn about the human impact on the shoreline and what they can do to help.

Spanish

This semester, Grade 2 students will continue to develop their understanding and use of Spanish, reviewing some fundamentals from the last term and expanding their speaking and listening skills. Students will be able to film an interview sharing their personal details at the end of the term. Some of the new vocabulary includes the words to describe the weather, the clothes we wear, the parts of our body, the food choices we make, the houses we live in and the names of the letters in the alphabet.

PE

The Grade 2 program is designed to further develop basic movement patterns for more complex physical activities. Students participate in activities that develop their locomotor and cooperative skills. These activities include team and partner games involving running, skipping, jumping and galloping. As the semester progresses, students are introduced to multi-skilled activities that include throwing and catching, kicking, striking, and racket sports. Flexibility, agility and upper body strength are developed through dance and gymnastics activities where students create their own sequences in collaborative groups. Each class attends aquatic lessons for a 10-lesson block in either the first or second semester. In the aquatics unit, students learn how to be safe in the water, gain more confidence in deep water and improve their swimming technique. Fun games are incorporated throughout the year to introduce ideas of health and sportsmanship in a positive environment.

Music

In the second semester, Grade 2 students continue to sing, play, move and create in music classes. They develop their notation skills using a reduced staff for melodic work and more conventional notation for rhythmic work. Often starting with short poems, they create their own melodies and body percussion orchestrations before moving to percussion instruments. Students play and create two, three and four-part rhythmic orchestrations in small groups. They begin to read from a large scale score for hand chimes as they develop their ringing technique in the second half of the year. Students continue to learn a wide variety of songs and dances from different countries in several languages. They learn about form, dynamics, melody, beat and rhythm through song, becoming more confident singing in an ensemble.

Art

This semester, Grade 2 students continue to explore the elements of art. Students learn the principles of drawing by using a variety of materials such as charcoal, paint and chocolate. With an emphasis on painting, the students also create meaningful and personal works of art about events in their home or community life, exploring concepts such as warm and cool colors, and comparing and contrasting cultural uses in their pieces. The “take care” theme is linked to every project, including some group murals for Lower School Foyer.