

SECOND GRADE

Reading and Language Arts

The Second Grade reading and language arts program focuses on five critical areas of instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. The teachers use the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System to determine and track the students' instructional and independent reading levels over the course of the year. The reading and writing workshops are taught using the units of study developed by the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project. The components of the reading and writing workshops include mini-lessons, independent reading and writing, partner reading and writing, interactive writing, shared reading, and read alouds. Students learn foundational skills for reading, writing, and spelling through the Wilson Foundations program. Grammar concepts are taught through mini-lessons and reinforced through practice by completing written grammar sheets in class or for homework.



DURING THE YEAR, STUDENTS WILL:

- Read texts daily in a wide variety of genres at their just-right level in order to build reading stamina, fluency, decoding skills, and comprehension
- Self-monitor during reading by recognizing when meaning breaks down and using strategies to tackle and understand tricky words or concepts
- Learn about a variety of genres and work through different phases of the writing process by writing small moment personal narratives, informational pieces, opinion pieces, and poetry

Math

The Second Grade uses the Scott-Foresman Addison Wesley mathematics curriculum. The program teaches students key math concepts through problem-solving instruction, hands-on activities with manipulatives, and math problems that involve reading and writing. Student progress is assessed over the course of the year through ongoing classroom observations, quizzes, and unit tests.

Based on the students performance on the math assessment at the beginning of the year, students may be placed in the next grade level of math.

DURING THE YEAR, STUDENTS WILL LEARN SKILLS SUCH AS:

- Addition and subtraction facts with automaticity through fast fact quizzes, games, and repeated practice
- Methods for solving word problems by applying different strategies that have been taught
- Communicating mathematical reasoning to others
- Developing an understanding of place value to the thousands place, fractions, graphing, geometric shapes, and multiplication and division concepts

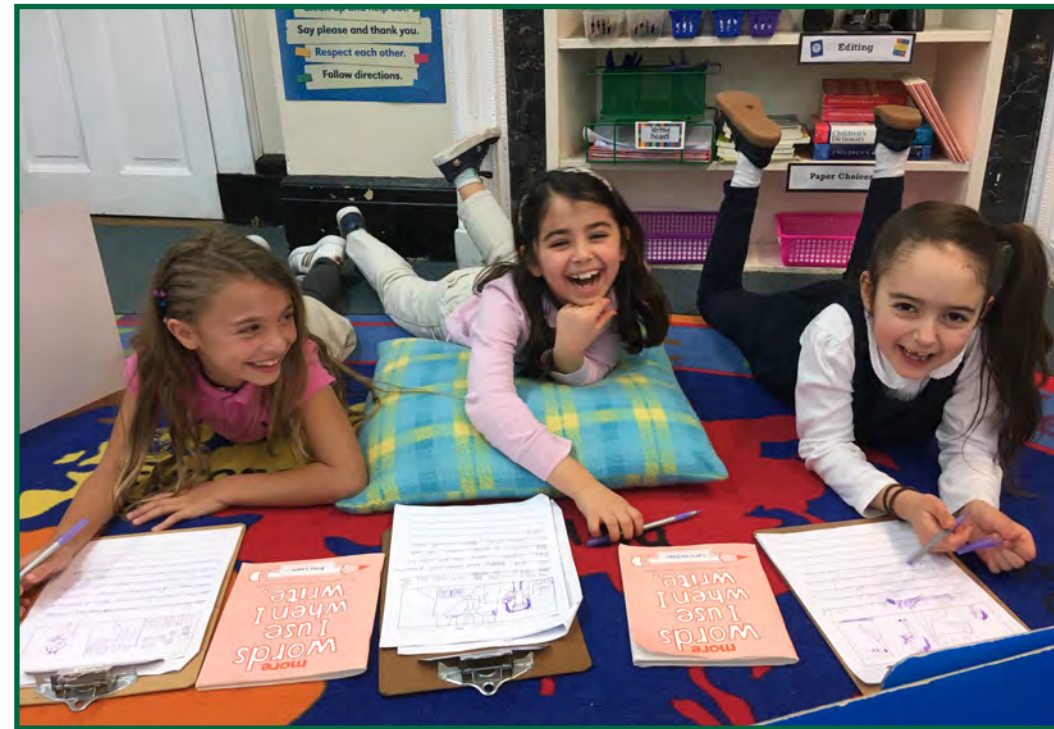
Science

Second Grade scientists build on the skills and knowledge developed in First Grade and continue to learn scientific concepts by asking questions and forming hypotheses, performing experiments, drawing conclusions, participating in discussions, reading non-fiction books and articles, and writing about their learning. The science curriculum is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and the students have opportunities to share their knowledge with the community through projects such as creating a multi-layered rainforest mural showing the plants and

animals commonly found in the ecosystem. Over the course of the year, the curriculum includes the following units of study in life science, physical science, and earth science: Structure and Function of Plants, Ecosystem Diversity, Structure and Properties of Matter, and Earth Materials.

DURING THE YEAR, STUDENTS WILL:

- Plan and carry out hands-on experiments, analyze data, discuss conclusions, and present findings
- Employ reading and writing skills to learn about scientific concepts and to communicate about learning





Social Studies

The Second Grade social studies curriculum begins with an exploration of maps, globes, and location. Children learn and discuss their placement in the world in different ways from discussing and drawing the placement of their classroom to learning the seven continents and five oceans. Over the course of the year, the children complete a unit on each continent that weaves in map skills and geography as well as learning about different cultures and traditions in other parts of the world. This year-long exploration culminates with a World Map Project in which students and their parents spend a morning constructing a

map with important geographic features and landmarks from around the world, and a World Map Performance in which the children perform authentic music and dances from around the world.

DURING THE YEAR, STUDENTS WILL:

- Pretend to "travel" to each continent with their passports in hand, and use Google Earth to "visit" each continent
- Read, discuss, and summarize key facts from nonfiction texts and write informational pieces
- Develop an understanding of the similarities and differences between different places and cultures
- Complete a project relating to each continent studied

World Language (Spanish)

World language study in the Second Grade continues to foster the development of verbal skills, comprehension skills, and written proficiency in Spanish. The class meets two days per week, and it also provides the students with an introduction to Spanish cultural celebrations and traditions. During class, the students engage in conversation, read short passages, write basic sentences, and actively participate in games and activities to continue their development of strong Spanish language skills.

