

SECOND GRADE CURRICULUM

In this final year of our lower school, second graders tackle increased challenges in geography study, literature projects, mathematical problem solving, and cursive instruction.

Second graders build their study skills and responsibility through the introduction of an assignment notebook and through the execution of long-term assignments such as literature, geography, and science projects and self-paced book reports.

Class literature books are introduced in second grade and students read through books together, using small group opportunities to develop reading fluency and comprehension skills.

A hallmark of the second grade year is the completion of cursive handwriting instruction. By spring, students are excited to show off this new skill and complete all written work in cursive.

Students also enhance their research skills as they document the struggles and achievements of a historical figure in a Black History Month writing project.

Mathematical challenges abound as second graders solidify foundational skills in addition, subtraction, and money, and tackle new topics such as multiplication, fractions, and area and perimeter.

Geography is a central focus of the second grade curriculum. Students begin the year building their knowledge of maps and create a detailed map of their route from home to Rossman School with all essential map components. In the remainder of the year, students complete an in-depth study of each continent.

Reading

Continue building oral reading fluency and expression | Complete literature projects at the conclusion of each book | Continue phonics instruction to solidify word analysis and spelling skills | Read independently for nightly homework and log reading minutes | Engage in small literature group discussions to build comprehension skills | Use context to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words | Recognize and appropriately use homophones, antonyms, and synonyms | Identify point of view, problem and solution, character traits and author's purpose | Complete book reports on independent reading | Practice various strategies for retelling or summarizing a story

Class Literature Books: The Josefina Story Quilt | The Courage of Sarah Noble | Almost Zero | Tornado | The Stories Julian Tells | A Girl Named Helen Keller

Resources include: New Practice Readers | MCP Plaid Phonics Level C | Kids A-Z | Scholastic News Magazines

Writing

Build conventions through the study of mentor sentences | Identify parts of speech and forms of punctuation | Continue weekly spelling tests | Complete Zaner Bloser cursive instruction | Generate both narrative and informational written work with multiple paragraphs | Broaden word choice in written work and revise work to replace overused words | Implement traditional spelling with greater consistency | Engage in creative writing opportunities and journal writing

Resources include: 6 + 1 Traits of Writing | Spelling Connections | Mentor Sentences for Grammar Instruction | Zaner Bloser Cursive Handwriting | Quick Word Handbook for Everyday Writers

Mathematics

Engage in hands-on math centers | Collaborate with classmates to share strategies for problem solving | Utilize problem solving journal to build multiple approaches to problem solving with both whole numbers and fractions | Read and write numbers to a million | Know and express place value within six digit numbers | Draw line segments | Identify and explore defining characteristics of two- and three-dimensional shapes | Identify lines of symmetry and symmetrical figures | Tell time to the minute and calculate elapsed time | Extend fraction knowledge by learning to compare and find equivalent fractions | Find area and perimeter of rectangles | Increase mental arithmetic skills through daily mental math warm-ups | Build automaticity of recall of addition and subtraction facts within 20 | Solidify procedures for addition and subtraction with regrouping up to three-digit numbers | Introduce multiplication and solve multiplication problems with factors of 0-5 | Interpret data on a bar or line graph | Plot data on a bar or line graph | Measure to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and $\frac{1}{2}$ centimeter

Resources: Everyday Math | Prodigy | Sushi Monster | various tools, games and manipulatives for hands on learning

Social Studies

Read and create maps using key features such as compass rose, map key, and landmarks | Complete research projects and identify important information to include | Visit local historical sites connected to pioneers and Native Americans including the Historic Daniel Boone home and Cahokia Mounds | Interview family members about their family's immigration to the United States and significant historical events as experienced by their family | Build understanding of each continent's physical geography, culture, and history | Engage in virtual exploration to build understanding of each continent's unique and defining features and places | Complete Black History research reports on a historical figure

Units of Study: Maps, Globes and Directions | Early America: Pioneer and Native American Life | Immigration | Black History | The Seven Continents

Science

Deliver oral presentations of independent and group project work explaining scientific thinking and conclusions | Create models (drawings and three-dimensional representations) to demonstrate scientific understanding | Identify notable characteristics of our solar system and outer space | Identify the earth's major habitats and their primary characteristics | Understand how animals and plants are connected to the habitat they live in | Define invertebrates and explain their primary characteristics | Explain how germs spread and preventive techniques to stop the spread of germs | Understand the body's defenses against germs | Explore different categories of microorganisms (bacteria, viruses, and fungi) | Engage in a variety of STEM challenges

Units of Study: Invertebrate Animals | Microbes/Germs | Outer Space | Engineering | Habitats

Art

Learn about various artists to inspire and influence different art projects and methods | Use found natural objects from the Pollnow Nature Trail to create observational drawings | Learn to create depth using a horizon line, overlapping objects, and changing the size of objects | Sculpt and glaze clay animal masks | Create ceramic hearts to support the Ollie Hinkle Heart Foundation | Introduce figure drawing | Review the color wheel, color mixing, and introduce using black and white to create tints and shades | Investigate 3-Dimensional art forms

Music

Solidify knowledge of rhythm through competitions, games, and rhythmic dictations | Incorporation of half notes and half rests | Identify basic form structure in music and create form variations with familiar songs | Learn, compare, and identify dynamics | Understand the terms verse, refrain, and introduction | Learn all notes of the pentatonic scale and use corresponding hand signs | Place the notes of the pentatonic scale on staves | Begin initial sight-reading of short melodies | Use familiar and new rhythms to experiment with the creation of pitched and unpitched short songs | Identify steps, leaps, and repeats in notation and play them on xylophones and metallophones | Sing and play a large repertoire of folk songs, pentatonic songs, chants, and games | Building confidence performing in front of classmates | Learning and performing in whole school concerts and performances |

Spanish

Introduce geography and traditions of Spanish-speaking countries in the Americas, filling out passport as students "visit" different countries | Read and personalize mini-books about central and South American countries | Study the geography and flags of Spanish-speaking countries around the world | Learn to discuss the weather and compare the weather in St. Louis to the weather in South America | Compare winter holiday traditions in the United States and Spanish-Speaking countries

Resources include: Había Una Vez curriculum from The Storyteller's Corner | Mira el Mundo Jr. | Mundo de Pepita Spanish mini-books | Rockalingua

Library

Locate fiction books by call number | Explain what the Caldecott Award is and provide examples of nominated books | Conduct basic computer catalog searches | Develop a greater appreciation for fiction genres | Begin to learn areas of the Nonfiction collection

Physical Education

Our lower school curriculum is a movement based curriculum where the students learn through game play and skill development. From our Junior Kindergarten to our second grade, our program is a spiraling curriculum that builds upon itself. Through this curriculum our students will also develop and grow in sportsmanship, cooperation and physical fitness.

Distinguish between dominant and non-dominant sides | Develop locomotor movements | Establish hand-eye and foot-eye coordination | Introduce rhythm | Learn to chase and evade | Develop balancing skills | Learn boundaries

Specialty Subject Schedule

Art – 45 minutes, 2 times a week

Library – 45 minutes, 1 time a week

Music – 30 minutes, 2 times a week

Physical Education – 30 minutes daily

Science – 45 minutes, 4 times a week

Spanish – 30 minutes, 2 times a week