

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, partner reading and whole-group reading activities. They continue to learn about syllable types, vowel teams, prefixes and suffixes to support their fluent decoding of longer, multisyllabic words. They grow their understanding of fictional characters by noticing actions and reactions to develop ideas and opinions about the traits of a particular character. As they grow more fluent and independent as readers, students are expected to contribute these ideas and opinions to a book partnership or group in Semester 2. In fiction texts, students also consider an author's craft with word choice and literary language. In our last unit focused on nonfiction, Grade 2 readers grow their knowledge in a variety of content areas by examining the content, structure and features of informational texts.

Writing

Grade 2 students develop fluency, skills and craft for opinion and informational writing. Students are led through a process of planning, drafting, revising, editing and publishing their work. Students write opinion letters about topics of their choice and fiction characters or books. Students also write informational texts connected to our science unit. Whole class mini-lessons teach students specific writing strategies, such as how to choose a topic and provide supporting statements or details. Students communicate using clear organization, including transition words, introductions and conclusions. One-to-one teacher conferences with students provide an opportunity for more individualized instruction based on the student's needs. Using the Foundations program as a core resource, word study is addressed in a variety of ways including a focus on high-frequency words, spelling patterns, and editing strategies to use to improve 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 minds 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 with the Common Core State Standards, with an emphasis on understanding, 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 is an integral part of the curriculum, designed to reinforce concepts and skills. This semester, students deepen their understanding of place value and strategies and models for the addition and subtraction of numbers within 1,000, while developing fluency with facts within 20. Students develop an understanding of two-dimensional figures by describing the unique attributes of shapes and by decomposing shapes into fractional parts. Students learn to tell time to the nearest five minutes.

Social Studies

This semester through 'My Choices and Economics,' students explore the difference between needs and wants and investigate how consumers need to make choices with money and other resources. They inquire into goods and services that are produced or present in our local urban community and consider the ways a community works together to provide for the wants and needs of its people.

Science

The second science unit for Grade 2 is Animal Adventures, which is integrated with our reading and writing informational units. This unit helps students develop a sense of wonder for animal biodiversity while gaining practical experience in identifying animals and sorting them into scientific groups. Additionally, students explore and research animal habitats and consider how the surrounding environment affects what creatures live in a particular environment. Students engage in fieldwork research on our trip to London ZSL.

Spanish

This semester, Grade 2 students continue to work on securing their listening skills and using Spanish to have a rehearsed conversation with a friend. We will also use the target language to make a presentation about our school and to connect with the science curriculum to talk about animals and their habitats.

Music

In Grade 2 music, students develop their musical abilities through singing, movement, and ear training, strengthening their sense of pitch and rhythm. They explore creativity through percussion instruments, rhythmic exercises, and opportunities for composition and improvisation. Students also learn to interpret and describe musical elements, deepening their appreciation of diverse musical styles. They share their music through both informal and formal performances, building confidence and musical expression.

PE

In the second semester, Grade 2 students participate in activities to continue developing their motor skills, knowledge and understanding of movement concepts, and personal and social skills like communication and collaboration. Students complete units on foot-eye skills, striking with implements, swimming games, and cooperative and fitness games. The foot-eye skills unit focuses on coordination in foot dribbling, passing and kicking through skills based cooperative activities. The striking with implements unit targets hand-eye coordination and striking skills using foam paddles, short tennis rackets, plastic bats and short hockey sticks. The final swim unit builds on the swim skills learned throughout the year and includes individual and group challenges that involve throwing, catching, balancing, and retrieving items in the deep end. The cooperative games and fitness unit develops jump rope skills and teamwork through group activities that increase body and spatial awareness.

Art

This semester, Grade 2 students continue to explore the elements of art exploring a variety of techniques, art media, and purposes through the study of various contemporary artists including David Hockney and Amy Sherald among others. With an emphasis on painting, students create art connected to events in their home or community life, exploring concepts such as warm and cool colors, and comparing and contrasting cultural uses in their pieces. Students design a variety of personal pieces including their own portfolio and continue to use their sketchbooks to play with materials making choice-based art while engaging in free inquiry.