

# **Second Grade Syllabus-Outline First Semester**

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Second Grade at Lake Dallas Elementary! This syllabus outlines what your child will learn this semester, and how you can support their success. As required by Texas law (Senate Bill 12), this document serves as the instructional plan and is available for your review. We are excited to partner with you for a great semester!

## **What Your Child Will Learn**

This semester, we'll focus on building skills in the following subjects, based on Texas state standards (TEKS). This is the instructional plan for your child's class:

### **1. Reading & Language Arts**

- Unit 1: Fairy Tales and Tall Tales
  - Learning objectives: Students are introduced to three classic fairy tales: "The Fisherman and His Wife," "The Emperor's New Clothes," and "Beauty and the Beast." They will review characteristic elements of fairy tales and consider problems faced by the characters as well as lessons in each story. Students then turn to the American frontier for tall tales about Paul Bunyan, Pecos Bill, John Henry, and Casey Jones. They learn about the characteristics of tall tales, such as exaggeration and larger-than-life characters, and compare and contrast this genre with fairy tales.
- Unit 2: The Ancient Greek Civilization
  - Learning objectives: This domain will introduce students to ancient Greek civilization, and its contributions which can still be seen in many areas of our lives today, including in language, government, and architecture. Students will learn about the gods and goddesses of the ancient Greeks, the city-states of Sparta and Athens, and the philosophers Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. They will learn about the first Olympic Games held in honor of Zeus, the significance of the battles of Marathon and Thermopylae, and the conquests of Alexander the Great. Students will also learn to establish a character and will incorporate facts about ancient Greece into a piece of fictional writing.
- Unit 3: Stories from Mount Olympus
  - Learning objectives: Students build on their knowledge of ancient Greek culture through exploration of Greek myths, and recognize the continuing cultural relevance of these stories in literary allusions, common words, and expressions used today. Students learn about gods including Pandora, Demeter, Persephone, and Hercules, and their home on Mount Olympus. Students will summarize a Greek myth and practice plot development by creating a character and writing their own fictional narrative in the style of a Greek myth.

- Unit 4: The War of 1812
  - Learning objectives: This domain will introduce students to an important period in the history of the United States—the War of 1812. Students will learn both why the War of 1812 is often called America’s second war for independence, and how the United States was affected by the Napoleonic Wars between France and Great Britain. They will learn about James and Dolley Madison, and their direct connection to the War of 1812. Students will learn about Great Britain’s three-part plan to win back the United States, including attacks on Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, and the attack on New Orleans in an attempt to gain control of the Mississippi River.
- Unit 5: Cycles of Nature: Clouds to Raindrops
  - Learning objectives: Students are introduced to the cycles of nature as they study seasonal cycles, animal life cycles, and the importance of the water cycle. Students will also learn about the effects seasonal changes have on plants and animals. As students learn that all organisms, including people, experience the developmental stages of the life cycle, they will also begin to understand how all organisms depend on Earth’s limited water supply. Students will write an informational paragraph summarizing the life cycle of a frog.
- Unit 6: Westward Expansion
  - Learning objectives: Building on an earlier domain, students continue to study the history of the United States—the time of westward expansion during the 1800s. Students explore why pioneers were willing to endure the hardships to move westward, and learn about innovations in transportation and communication, including the steamboat, the Transcontinental Railroad, and the Pony Express. Students also come to understand the hardships and tragedies that Native Americans endured because of westward expansion. Students will practice note-taking skills as they prepare to write an informational text in the format of a Westward Expansion Quilt.
- Unit 7: Insects All Around
  - Learning objectives: Students will learn the characteristics of insects, the life cycles of insects, how insects can be categorized as solitary or social, and how insects are viewed as both helpful and harmful. For example, students will learn how insects are important to the process of pollination and in the production of honey, some cosmetics, and even medicines. This domain will lay the foundation for further study of the life cycles, habitats, and classifications of insects and other animals.

## 2. Math

- Module 1: Sums and Differences to 100
  - Learning objectives: This module bundles student expectations that address recalling basic facts with automaticity and using place value and properties of operations to represent and solve addition and subtraction problem situations within 100.
- Module 2: Addition and Subtraction of Length Units
  - Learning objectives: This module bundles student expectations that deepen conceptual understanding of measurement concepts and relate addition and subtraction to length.
- Module 3: Place Value, Counting, and Comparison of Numbers to 1,200
  - Learning objectives: This module bundles student expectations that address building a strong foundation of place value understanding for numbers up to 1,200 through a concrete to pictorial to abstract approach.
- Module 4: Addition and Subtraction Within 200 with Word Problems to 100

- Learning objectives: This module bundles student expectations that address using place value and properties of operations to build fluency in two-digit addition and subtraction within 100, applying that fluency to one- and two-step word problems of varying types within 100, and developing conceptual understanding of addition and subtraction of multi-digit numbers within 200.
- Module 5: Addition and Subtraction Within 1,000 with Word Problems to 1,000
  - Learning objectives: This module bundles student expectations that address adding and subtracting within 1,000, including connecting concrete models, drawings, and strategies based on place value; properties of operations; and the relationship between addition and subtraction to written methods.

### 3. Science

- Unit 1: Investigating Physical Properties
  - Learning objectives: This unit bundles student expectations that address describing, classifying, and changing matter. Students will classify objects based on observable physical properties (texture, flexibility, and relative temperature) and identify whether a material is a solid or liquid. Students will also explain how the properties can be changed by cutting, folding, sanding, freezing, and melting. Furthermore, students will demonstrate that small units can be combined or reassembled to form new objects for different purposes and explain the materials chosen based on their physical properties.
- Unit 2: Investigating Force and Motion
  - Learning objectives: This unit bundles student expectations that address how pushes and pulls can change an object's shape or motion. Students are expected to explain how objects can change shape when pushed together. Students will then plan and conduct their own descriptive investigations that show how an object's motion can be changed by a push or pull.
- Unit 3: Investigating Sound Energy
  - Learning objectives: This unit bundles student expectations that require creating explanations of how sound is created and demonstrating the source of sound. Students are expected to explain and demonstrate the relationship of vibrations and sound. Then, students are expected to recognize different levels of sound and their uses in real life. Finally, students will create their own devices that use sound to meet a desired objective.
- Unit 4: Investigating Objects in the Sky
  - Learning objectives: This unit bundles student expectations that focus on objects that students can directly observe in the sky. While students will observe objects that are in space, the vantage point is from the surface of the Earth. They describe the Sun as a star that provides light and heat. Students are expected to explain that the Moon reflects light from the Sun, rather than producing its own light. Additionally, they will observe other objects visible in the sky using tools, such as telescopes. They will compare how objects appear different with and without the use of these tools.

### 4. Social Studies

- Unit 1: Honoring Our Community History
  - Learning objectives: This unit bundles student expectations that address how historians study the past and the importance of history in a community. Historians analyze documents and artifacts to interpret the cause and effect, and the significance of past events along with the changes brought about by past events. History at its core is a study about changes made by human actors. Historians seek to answer what happened, what were those involved thinking, why did the

change happen then and there, and what lessons can we learn from the events. To facilitate their work, historians identify significant dates and organize events into periods of time or eras. An era is marked by similar political, economic, and social conditions. This introductory unit is intended to introduce students to the historian's craft as well as to learn about how communities honor the past. Learning about how historians examine the past is important for understanding that history is an interpretative narrative of the past based on evidence

- Unit 2: Civic Pride in Our Community
  - Learning objectives: This unit bundles student expectations that relate to citizenship. Citizens generally take pride in their communities, which is reflected in the contributions they make to the community and in many of the traditions practiced in the community. While students have been participating in the Pledge of Allegiance since starting school, it is in this unit that they study about how this practice reflects a pride in America. Additionally, students should examine what the pledge means to deepen their understanding of why this tradition is important to Americans. A study of citizenship is a foundation step for preparing students to be responsible and engaged citizens.
- Unit 3: Governing Our Community
  - Learning objectives: This unit bundles student expectations that address how communities are governed. All communities form governments to provide services and to establish and enforce rules for the community. The operation of governments is dependent on public officials and political leaders. A study of how governments function along with an examination of the roles of public figures and citizens is important for understanding that societies utilize government and institutions to promote order, security, and stability.

Thank you for partnering with us to make this semester successful for your child! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Simpson, Mrs. Estrada, Mrs. Anaya, Mrs. McKay, & Mrs. Foster