

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.

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

Geography is a central focus of the second grade curriculum. Students begin the year by building their mapping knowledge and creating a detailed map of their route from home to Rossman School, including all essential map components. In the second half 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 | 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*

Resources include: *Foundations* | *Kids A-Z* | *IXL* | *Scholastic News Magazines*

Writing

Build conventions through the study of mentor texts | Identify parts of speech and forms of punctuation | Continue weekly spelling tests | Complete Zaner Bloser cursive instruction | Generate 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* | *Foundations* | *Zaner Bloser Cursive Handwriting* | *IXL* | *Quick Word Handbook for Everyday Writers*

Mathematics

Engage in hands-on math centers | Collaborate with classmates to share strategies for problem-solving | Utilize a problem-solving journal to build multiple approaches to problem-solving | 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 | Increase mental arithmetic skills | 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 | IXL | Prodigy | Sushi Monster | Building Thinking Classrooms

Social Studies

Read and create maps using key features such as a 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 an 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

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 | learn to create depth using a horizon line, overlapping objects, and changing the size of objects | Sculpt and glaze clay projects | Create ceramic hearts to support the Ollie Hinkle Heart Foundation | Introduce self-portraits | Review the color wheel, color wheel, color mixing, and introduce using black and white to create tints and shades | Investigate three-dimensional art forms

Music

Solidify knowledge of rhythm through competitions, games, and rhythmic dictations | Introduce 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 two- and three-note 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 | Build confidence performing in front of classmates | Learn songs and perform in whole school concerts and performances

Spanish

Practice simple greetings through songs and chants | Build vocabulary related to greetings, colors, calendar, weather, times of day, seasons and recreational activities, clothes, insects, parts of a house, professions, breakfast and lunch food, family, Amazon animals, and numbers 1-20 | Introduce Spanish vowels and some consonants | Identify syllables in Spanish words | Conjugate verbs in first person | Learn the common verbs | Ask and answer common questions | Learn articles and adjectives agreement | Combine vocabulary to write short sentences | Engage in treasure hunts, parades, and simple games | Learn about traditions from Spanish-speaking countries (Dia de los Muertos, Navidad, Cinco de Mayo)

Resources include: Rockalingua | Pocoyó en Español | Bilingual picture books | Youtube Channels (Pingfong en Espanol, Smile and Learn en Espanol, Super Simple en Espanol, Basho and Friends)

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 the areas of the Nonfiction collection | Learn to think critically about media use | Begin to understand what it means to leave a digital trail

Physical Education

Our lower school curriculum is movement-based. Students learn through gameplay and skill development. From Junior Kindergarten to 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.

Work on the trajectory of throws | Kick a ball at a target | Hit a pitched ball | Shoot a ball at a basket | Play lead-up games to introduce game play for various sports | Begin participation in the Jump Rope for Heart program

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