Upper Merion Area School District
Curriculum Information for Parents and Community

Grade 2

Second Grade is the final year of the primary grades (K-2) when students secure and practice their phonics skills in learning to read and build automaticity in their fluency. We continue to provide a rich, supportive learning environment for the whole child: academically, socially, and emotionally.

All of our elementary classrooms begin the day with Morning Meeting, in which students actively participate in a circle for the purpose of greeting each other, sharing something about themselves, participating in an activity, and listening to the teacher's morning message. Then students participate in English Language Arts and go to their Specials (Art, Music, Physical Education, and Library) classes. Second Graders attend Specials for a 40-minute period each day and an additional 30-minute period on half of their school days. Following 40 minutes of science/social studies, students enjoy recess and lunch. In the afternoon, students break into small groups for Excel, in which they get small-group reading instruction based on their skill needs. Math is the final academic subject of the day. Bridgeport, Caley, and Roberts follow an 8-day schedule (Days A-H), while Caley and Gulph follow a 10-day schedule (Days 1-10).

If you have any questions regarding your child's educational program, please contact your child's teacher for more information.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)
Second Grade students develop academic communication skills through regular practice in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Visual and technological communication is integrated. Specific ELA skills in Second Grade include:
-Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words with increasing fluency
-Determine the meaning of words (including multiple-meaning words) and phrases as they are used in grade-level texts
-Read and comprehend grade-level literature, literary nonfiction, and informational texts with independence and proficiency
-Read with accuracy and fluency to support comprehension
-Identify the main idea of a multi-paragraph text and the focus of specific paragraphs within the text
-Explain the point of view of the author
-Recount stories and determine their central message, lesson, or moral
-Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information
-Write an opinion with reasons to support the opinion
-Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events
-Demonstrate a grade-appropriate command of the conventions of standard English grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling
-Practice and apply the correct formation of manuscript letters in writing

Upper Merion Area School District is an equal opportunity educational institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious affiliation, national origin, sex, age, marital status or non-relevant handicaps and disabilities in its activities, programs or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX and Section 504. The district's commitment to nondiscrimination extends to students, employees, prospective employees and the community. For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures or for information regarding services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and useable by handicapped persons, contact Manager of Human Resources, Upper Merion Area School District, 435 Crossfield Road, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, 19406, (610) 205-6405.

Upper Merion uses *Fundations* by Wilson to finalize the learning of phonics and practice correct formation of manuscript letters. We use *Wonders* by McGraw Hill to teach Balanced Literacy. *Fundations* and *Wonders* are resources that teachers use to teach the Pennsylvania Core Standards.

MATHEMATICS

Second Grade students continue to learn about the joy of mathematics by extending their understanding of the base-ten system; use their understanding of addition and subtraction to develop fluency using two- and three-digit numbers; and use graphs and pictures to organize and draw conclusions from a given set of data. In addition, students start to explore the concepts of multiplication and division.

- Fluently add and subtract within 20 using mental strategies. Know from memory all sums of two one-digit numbers.
- Determine whether a group of objects (up to 20) has an odd or even number of members using different methods.
- Understand that the three digits of a three-digit number represent amounts of hundreds, tens, and ones; e.g., 706 equals 7 hundreds, 0 tens, and 6 ones.
- Count within 1000; skip-count by 5s, 10s, and 100s.
- Compare two three-digit numbers based on meanings of the hundreds, tens, and ones digits, using >, =, and < symbols to record the results of comparisons.
- Fluently add and subtract within 100 using strategies and use these strategies to solve word problems.
- Add up to four two-digit numbers using strategies based on place value and properties of operations.
- Measure the length of an object by selecting and using appropriate tools such as rulers, yardsticks, meter sticks, and measuring tapes.
- Estimate lengths using units of inches, feet, centimeters, and meters.
- Tell and write time from analog and digital clocks to the nearest five minutes, using a.m. and p.m.
- Solve word problems involving dollar bills, quarters, dimes, nickels, and pennies.
- Recognize and draw shapes having specified attributes, such as a given number of angles or given number of equal faces.
- Identify triangles, quadrilaterals, pentagons, hexagons, and cubes.

SPECIALS

Art -- Where do artists get ideas? In second grade, students explore and are inspired by the work of some of the great artists of the past and present. They continue to develop their use of line, shape, color, texture, value, solid form, and space in their pieces. The district art show in May features student work.

Music -- In music class students listen, sing, connect, create, play, and move. They learn to identify notes on the music staff, use pitches and rhythms to compose music, and study four of the instrument families. All elementary students have access to the online curriculum available through *Musicplay*.

Health -- Our health education promotes wellness, personal responsibility, positive decision-making, and using S.M.A.R.T. goals. Students will study a variety of themes in health class that are taught at the age appropriate level for each topic. The health themes covered include: Social and emotional health, human growth and development, hygiene and disease prevention, nutrition and fitness, safety and injury prevention, and learning about the effects of drugs that help or hurt our bodies.

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Physical Education -- In physical education students will learn about how lifestyle behaviors you develop now will have an impact on your wellness in the future. The curriculum is designed to promote physical fitness, effective communication, teamwork, sportsmanship and a determination to do your best. A basic tenet of the student's experience is that physical activity positively impacts your physical, mental, and social and emotional wellness. The main curriculum themes include: Movement (locomotor and non-locomotor movements), fitness (health and skill based fitness, manipulative games (throwing, kicking, sticking, bouncing), cooperative and creative games (working together), invasion games (soccer, basketball), net wall games (volleyball, tennis), recreational games (tag games, ga-ga ball, bocce), and safety (spatial awareness). Our goal is to have students up and moving 80% of their class time!

Library -- During library time, students listen to read-alouds, participate in lessons related to children's literature, and learn to locate and select books. School counselors provide lessons to students in place of some library periods.

SCIENCE and SOCIAL STUDIES

Life science lessons center around the needs and adaptations of animals and plants. Earth Science lessons focus on observing local weather patterns, studying extreme weather events, and protecting the Earth. In Social Studies lessons, students learn about families and holidays around the world. Lessons include biographies of famous American presidents and key figures in Black History and Women's History. Students learn the difference between wants and needs, learn to identify US symbols, and learn to investigate what it means to be a good citizen.

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