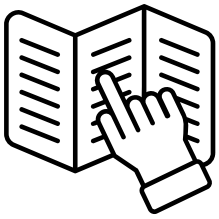
Parents' Guide to Success in Second Grade



Purpose of Parent Guides

Parent Guides are designed to help you understand the skills and concepts your child will focus on each nine weeks in every content area. Use these guides to start conversations with your child and support their learning at home.

Why are Academic Standards Important?

Academic standard ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in college and the workforce. Standards provide an important first step — a clear road-map for learning for teachers, parents, and students. Clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure students succeed. They also will help children develop critical thinking skills to prepare them for college and career.

Help Your Child Learn at Home

You can support your child by reading together, talking about what they are learning at school, asking them to explain their thinking, and celebrating their effort and progress. Small daily actions make a big difference in their learning.

Danville PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Students • Staff • Families • Community

Parents' Guide to Success in Second Grade for Quarter 1

Second grade students will focus on these key concepts and are expected to be able to:

Reading

- Build strong reading habits and understand what we read.
- Learn how stories and informational texts are organized.
- Write short stories and simple opinion pieces using complete sentences.
- Grow vocabulary and learn how word parts change meaning.
- Use basic grammar and sentence rules when speaking and writing.

Math

- Add or subtract within 20 from memory (like 19-11, or 8 + 7).
- Count by 2s, 5s, 10s, 25s, or 100s.
- Add or subtract using models and symbols.
- Look for and reognize patterns in objects, pictures, and numbers

Science

- Talk with your child about everyday examples of forces, such as pushing a door, pulling a wagon, or a magnet sticking to the refrigerator.
- Point out how forces help people do work or make tasks easier.
- Talk about everyday examples like ice melting, water freezing, or steam from boiling water.

Social Studies

- What it means to be a good citizen, including following rules and helping others.
- How people work together in schools, communities, and the country.
- The United States and what makes it a nation.
- Understanding rights and responsibilities.
- How people show respect for their country and others.

Danville PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Students • Staff • Families • Community

Parents' Guide to Success in Second Grade for Quarter 2

Second grade students will focus on these key concepts and are expected to be able to:

Reading

- Understand characters, events, and lessons in stories.
- Find important information and ideas in nonfiction texts.
- Write for different purposes, including stories, opinions, and poetry.
- Learn new words and use them correctly when reading and writing.
- Improve grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure.

Math

- Solve real world problems with addition and subtration within 100.
- Measure amounts using tools like rulers, measuring cups, and scales.

Science

- Ask, “What happens when this material gets hotter or colder?”
- Observe changes in matter during cooking or freezing food.
- Talk about where animals and plants live and how their habitat provides food, water, shelter, and space.
- Observe a local habitat and discuss how it may change over time.

Social Studies

- American Indian tribes and how they lived long ago.
- American Indians used natural resources to meet their needs.
- Comparing how life in the past is different from today.
- How the environment influenced where people lived.
- Learning about history through stories, pictures, and artifacts.

Danville PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Students • Staff • Families • Community

Parents' Guide to Success in Second Grade for Quarter 3

Second grade students will focus on these key concepts and are expected to be able to:

Reading

- Read closely to learn facts and information from texts
- Use reading skills to research and write about topics.
- Explain ideas from what was read using speaking and writing
- Organize writing more clearly with details and examples.
- Use grammar and word choices to make writing clearer.

Math

- Estimate amounts up to 1,000
- Tell whether a number is even or odd
- Add or subtract numbers within 200
- Tell the place value (hundreds, tens, or ones) of a digit in a three-digit number
- Count and compare fractions, like halves, fourths, eighths, thirds, and sixths.

Science

- Talk with your child about the weather each day and how it looks and feels.
- Check the weather forecast together and talk about how it affects daily plans.
- Observe trees, grass, or gardens and discuss how they help the area around them.

Social Studies

- How to use maps and globes to understand the world.
- Continents, oceans, and important land features.
- Important American leaders, such as George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.
- How transportation and communication have changed over time.
- Holidays and why they are important to our country.

Danville PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Students • Staff • Families • Community

Parents' Guide to Success in Second Grade for Quarter 4

Second grade students will focus on these key concepts and are expected to be able to:

Reading

- Compare ideas across stories, poems, and informational texts.
- Use reading skills independently to understand different texts.
- Write clearly for real-world purposes, such as letters and explanations.
- Choose precise words to make writing stronger.
- Edit and improve writing using grammar and punctuation rules.

Math

- Count a set of coins up to $2.00
- Measure time using calendars and clocks
- Recognize symmetry in shapes and objects

Science

- Observe a plant, insect, or pet and discuss the changes you notice.
- Ask, *"How does this season change what plants or animals do?"*
- Point out examples such as puddles forming, soil washing away, or leaves piling up.

Social Studies

- Goods and services and why people need them.
- Natural resources and how people use them.
- How money is used to buy goods and services.
- Making choices and understanding that choices have consequences.
- Students review what they have learned and show their understanding through activities and projects.

Danville PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Students • Staff • Families • Community