

Lower School Curriculum

2nd Grade

Language Arts

In second grade there is continued focus on phonemic awareness skills, vocabulary study, reading fluency, and comprehension strategies. The goal is to help students develop into confident and competent readers. In whole group and small group classroom lessons, students develop their guided and independent reading skills.

Students continue their formal writing development and by the end of the year are expected to write short stories, use spelling rules, and grade-level grammar conventions.

Mathematics

Problem-solving skills are developed by using strategies, concepts, and procedures. The emphasis in second grade is on helping children become fluent with basic facts, while introducing multi-digit addition and subtraction problems using regrouping. Additional concepts explored are the use of multiplication tables, division, and the comparison of simple fractions. Customary units of measurement are studied, including metric units and Celsius. The study of time continues, focusing on five-minute intervals and elapsed time. Math investigations and experiments are used to collect and organize data in both one and two step problems. The course continues the study of basic geometry and introduces the beginning number patterns and properties of Algebra. Computers are used for drill practice, word problems, and problem solving.

Social Studies

Second grade social studies expands upon the foundation set in kindergarten and first grade. Students engage in a comparison of various communities and learn the importance communities play in our work, leisure, and ability to problem-solve. Additionally, students study economics (cost/benefit), geography and earth features, and significantly broaden their understanding of maps and map features.

Art

Basic knowledge of the proper use of art tools and materials is developed. Students will demonstrate eye

and hand coordination. Large size art materials and tools are still used but medium size brushes and crayons will be introduced to add detail. Students are introduced to the first basic principle of design: proportion. The four basic studios (drawing, painting, ceramics, and sculpting) are the major focus of the art class. The last element of art, value, will be presented during the studio classes. Students will be introduced to critiquing a master work of art.

Library

The mission of the library is to encourage curiosity and to support instruction through collaboration with classroom teachers. Literacy skills learned in first grade are reinforced, including parts of a book, ABC order, and the difference between fiction and nonfiction. Second grade students are introduced to the online catalog where they learn to search for a book by title, author, and reading level. They are taught how to use the parts of a nonfiction book, including the table of contents, index, and glossary. Dictionary and mapping skills are reinforced. In addition to exploring poetry, fairy tales, and stories from around the world, students evaluate the illustrations in picture books as they learn about the Caldecott Medal.

Music

The second grade music class continues the systematic development of musical skills. Concepts of music that the students study are music literacy, rhythm, melody, harmony, and form. Creative expression through listening, creating, performing, reading, and responding to music are the highlights of the program, while students develop an appreciation of people represented in our world and communities. The class utilizes a wide range of activities involving classroom instruments, movement, games, and singing. Students perform in several programs throughout the year. Performances are viewed as an active process involving the development and application of musical skills, knowledge, and perceptions.

Physical Education

Students will continue to work with partners, small groups, and large groups by playing various games and activities. Taking turns, learning the purpose of good sportsmanship, and working with others are

examples of what is practiced on a daily basis. Through play, emphasis is placed on developing basic strength, endurance, and coordination. Mastery of all locomotor and non-locomotor skills is expected by the end of second grade. Agility and balance are practiced each time the children come to physical education.

Science

Each of the three branches of science (physical, earth, and life) is covered in a hands-on, minds-on format. Students explore the different states of matter in physical science. Life science involves a study of plants: their growth, their needs, and their role in our environment. Students will hone their observation skills by comparing changes in trees each season. A study of geology and paleontology and their roles in our understanding of the earth completes earth science.

Spanish

The overall objectives of Spanish in second grade are to develop and reinforce communicative competency in listening, speaking, writing, and culture. Students will gain an understanding of how the language is acquired and how they can use this knowledge to express themselves linguistically. Students will also acquire a basic understanding and appreciation of the diversity of cultures in the Spanish-speaking world.

Technology

The goal of this course in second grade is to help students develop a fundamental understanding of technology concepts, systems, and operations. Students will demonstrate the ability to navigate in virtual environments including software programs and on web sites. They will learn how to use digital tools and apply them with creativity and innovation. Students will also engage in critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making activities to strengthen these skills. The concept of Digital Citizenship will also be introduced.