

Parents' Guide to Student Success



This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of 2nd grade in English Language Arts and mathematics. This guide is based on West Virginia's College and Career Readiness Standards. If your child is meeting expectations outlined in these standards, he or she will be well prepared for 3rd grade.

2ND GRADE

English Language Arts & Literacy

In 2nd grade, students continue building foundational literacy skills while becoming more independent readers, writers, speakers, and thinkers.

Example classroom activities:

- Read and understand stories, poetry, and informational texts at increasing levels of complexity
- Identify key details, characters, setting, and main ideas
- Build comprehension and fluency through regular reading practice
- Write opinion pieces, informational texts, and narrative stories
- Organize ideas with a beginning, middle, and end
- Retell stories or explain ideas clearly
- Follow rules for conversations (taking turns, listening actively)
- Grammar skills (nouns, verbs, sentence structure)
- Spelling patterns (digraphs, vowel sounds, etc.)
- Vocabulary development using context clues

Mathematics

Second grade students focus on strengthening number sense and building fluency with basic operations. Concepts emphasize accurate computation, place value understanding, and problem-solving skills to build a foundation for more advanced mathematics.

Example classroom activities:

- Add and subtract within 20 quickly and accurately (math facts)
- Add and subtract 3-digit numbers using models and drawings based on place value to solve one- or two-step word problems
- Analyze 2D and 3D shapes to build an understanding of area and volume
- Divide shapes into equal sections to build a foundation for fractions
- Tell time to the nearest 5 minutes
- Solve word problems involving money
- Count money
- Measure length using appropriate tools