SECOND GRADE
PROGRESSION OF LEARNING

ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART

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DEAR PRESCHOOL AND LOWER SCHOOL PARENTS,

At the heart of the Preschool and Lower School educational philosophy lies a curriculum designed as a living, breathing framework—one that is both a reflection of our school's mission and a catalyst for student growth. This balance among disciplines is not incidental; it is a deliberate alignment intended to shape well-rounded girls who are prepared for the complexities of the world.

The academic experience is defined by a commitment to challenging experiences that inspire intellectual curiosity, problem solving, and a global mindset. We believe that true intellectual development occurs when students are challenged to think critically and engage with increasingly complex concepts.

The ***Progression of Learning*** is intended to provide families with an overview of our programs including the skills and concepts for the coming school year and a few hallmarks of the grade level. We hope this is a helpful tool in communicating and understanding the philosophy of our program and the expectations for the grade level.

Sincerely,

Shara Hammet
Preschool and Lower School Division Head



PRESCHOOL & LOWER SCHOOL INTEGRATED APPROACH TO LITERACY AND WRITTEN LANGUAGE

Literacy and written language instruction focus on content-rich, academically rigorous coursework aligned with evidence-based practices for reading comprehension. By implementing the Wit & Wisdom program by Great Minds, the PSLS curriculum builds content knowledge and literacy skills simultaneously. Rather than teaching reading skills in isolation, this research-based, module-driven approach immerses students in complex texts, fine art, and interdisciplinary science and social studies topics to foster deep reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills.

Key Features and Structure:

- Knowledge-Building Modules: Students gain deep background knowledge through four thematic modules.
- High-Quality Core Texts and Materials: Curriculum is anchored by rich, engaging, and award-winning literature, historical nonfiction, and fine art.
- Inquiry-Driven Framework: Lessons are structured around essential, focusing questions and follow a consistent "Wonder, Organize, Reveal, Distill, Know" progression.
- Integrated Literacy Approach: Reading, writing, and language arts are woven into a cohesive theme. This includes "Deep Dives" for vocabulary, syntax, and grammar, and aligned decodable reading practice.
- Academic Rigor and Complexity: The program provides highly demanding, quality instruction that fosters academic conversations, robust vocabulary development, and strong public speaking skills.



MATHEMATICS

Math curriculum builds deep conceptual understanding, critical thinking, and mathematical rigor from the start using the Singapore Math Methodology (via Dimension and Math in Focus). Prioritizing true mastery over rote memorization, the curriculum uses a deliberate sequence from Pre-K through Fourth Grade so students can apply foundational knowledge to complex problems.

Our approach relies on three core pillars:

- The CPA Progression: Students transition from hands-on, concrete materials (e.g., connecting cubes) to pictorial representations (e.g., ten-frames) before mastering abstract mathematical symbols.
- The Problem-Solving Framework: A holistic approach balancing concepts, skills, processes, metacognition, and positive attitudes.
- Mathematical Habits: Woven into daily activities, students learn to persevere, justify arguments, use tools strategically, identify patterns, and communicate with precise mathematical language.

Ultimately, we don't just teach calculation—we build the confidence, reasoning, and creativity needed to become lifelong problem solvers.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Social Studies program is an integrative approach that incorporates civics, economics, geography, and history with designated social studies time allotted each week across all grade levels. Aligned with the mission and *Goals and Criteria* of the school, through curriculum and programs, students form the foundational skills that prepare them to participate respectfully and intelligently in society.

Hallmarks of the program include:

- Meaningful, tangible, and engaging learning opportunities.
- Strong foundation for inquiry using research, debates, discussions, and projects of all varieties.
- Access to multiple resources-including, but not limited to, books, images, speakers, and field trips.
- Students as digital citizens and global citizens.
- Informational, visual, cultural, and economic literacy.
- Partnerships and collaboration among faculty, enrichment teachers, and community organizations and resources.

OVERVIEW OF LITERACY CONCEPTS AND SKILLS INTRODUCED IN SECOND GRADE

During Second Grade, students will be introduced to many written language concepts and skills. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

Narrative, Non-Fiction Research, Poetry, and Series Writing

- Write an opinion, likes and dislikes and giving reasons for opinion.
- Write a beginning with a convincing opinion.
- Connect parts of her piece using words such as also, another, and because.
- Write different parts with different information about the topic.
- Write an ending in which he reminded readers of his opinion or wraps up a piece.
- Include different parts with lines for each part.
- Write at least two reasons with a few sentences about each one.
- Choose words that would make readers agree with her opinion.
- Use words such as and and also.
- Include different kinds of information such as facts, definitions, details, steps, and tips.
- Include the words that show an expertise on the subject.
- Use words such as can't and don't, and using an apostrophe.
- Tell the story in order by using words such as when, then, and after.
- Choose the action, talk, or feeling that would make a good ending.
- Write a lot of lines on a page and writing across a lot of pages.
- Bring characters to life with details, talk, and actions.
- Include strong words that would help readers picture his story.
- Use quotation marks to show what characters said.
- Use apostrophes in words such as can't and don't.
- Spell a word using spelling patterns (-tion, -er, -ly, etc.) or the word wall.

OVERVIEW OF SECOND GRADE MATH CONCEPTS AND SKILLS

During Second Grade, students will be introduced to:

- Count to 1,000.
- Place value.
- Compare and order numbers.
- Number patterns.
- Add and subtract fluently within 100.
- Add and subtract without regrouping.
- Add with regrouping in the ones, with regrouping in the 10s, with regrouping in 1 and 10s.
- Add 4 two digit numbers.
- Subtraction with regrouping in the 10s and 1s, in 100s and 10s, in 100s 10s and 1s.
- Subtract across 0s.
- Use part-whole in addition and subtraction.
- Add on and taking away sets.
- Compare two sets.
- Two-step, real-world problems.
- Measure meters & centimeters.
- Compare and order metric lengths.
- Real-world problems: addition and subtraction of metric lengths.
- Measure in feet & inches.
- Compare and order customary lengths.

OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL STUDIES CONCEPTS AND SKILLS

In Second Grade, students expand their understanding of the world by examining how local, national, and global communities connect. They move from basic recognition of social studies concepts to analyzing how geography, economics, history, and civics actively shape daily life.

Civics and History

- The Structure of a Community: Defining what makes a community thrive and comparing different types of communities (urban, suburban, and rural) based on population and development.
- Citizenship and Government: Examining the purpose of rules and laws, how they are made, and the consequences of breaking them.
- Leadership Roles: Identifying local, state, and national leaders (e.g., mayors, governors, and the president) and understanding their responsibilities to the public.
- Active Citizenship and Community Service: Exploring how regular citizens—and individual students—can make a positive difference through volunteering, civic engagement, and leadership.

Geography

- Advanced Mapping Skills: Transitioning from simple drawings to reading official maps. Students learn to use map keys/legends, compass roses (cardinal and intermediate directions), and identify basic landforms and bodies of water.
- Human-Environment Interaction: Analyzing how humans depend on, adapt to, and modify their environment and natural resources (e.g., building dams, farming, or using renewable energy).
- Geographic Impact on Life: Investigating how physical geography, climate, and available resources directly dictate how people live, work, dress, and travel in different regions.

Economics

- Producers, Consumers, and Scarcity: Understanding the interdependent relationship between producers (those who make goods or provide services) and consumers (those who buy them). Introducing the concept of scarcity (limited resources).
- The Global Marketplace: Tracing the supply chain to see how goods are produced, transported, and brought to local and global markets.
- Wants, Needs, and Financial Literacy: Distinguishing between economic wants and needs, and introducing basic concepts of earning, saving, and spending money.

THE ENRICHMENT HUB

The Enrichment Hub on the ASH PS/LS parent portal provides an overview of the skills and concepts taught in our enrichment courses including religion, art, music, science, technology, library, physical education, innovation lab, and French.

Organized by grade level, the Hub also features virtual tours of our enrichment classrooms.

To View The Enrichment Hub, Scan Below:

SCAN ME

Highlights from Second Grade*

Global Education Unit • Second Grade Farmers Market
Palette Art Show • Playgroup • Mater Campus
Innovation Lab • Intramurals • Le Théâtre des Petits Coeurs,
Little Hearts French Theatre • Second Grade Mass
of Thanksgiving

**Subject to change*

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