

PARENT CURRICULUM GUIDE TO GRADE

2



EVERY DAY
COUNTS



WELCOME TO SECOND GRADE

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The Canon-McMillan School District believes in providing a well-rounded education that is strong in core academics: Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. In addition, students are provided with engaging experiences in the areas of Art, Library, Music, Physical Education, and Character Education.

The Second Grade Curriculum Guide provides a snapshot of the learning experiences students will engage in during the school year. To view each content area's curriculum, please visit the [Curriculum and Instruction](#) page on the District website.

In the core content areas, instruction is teacher-led and includes modeling, guided practice, and frequent opportunities for students to demonstrate their understanding. High-quality print materials; including student workbooks, readers, and journals are an essential component of daily instruction. Research shows that students learn best when they engage with printed materials. Using print materials leads to greater focus, deeper understanding, and stronger retention. In return, students are able to apply what they have learned with confidence and independence.

The mission of the Canon-McMillan School District, in partnership with the community, is to teach, to challenge, to motivate and to support all students to maximize their full individual potential.



CANON-McMILLAN
SCHOOL DISTRICT EST. 1954

BIG MACS
BIG
POSSIBILITIES



READING & WRITING

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Second grade is an important year as students begin the process of transitioning from learning to read to reading to learn. Building on the strong foundation developed in kindergarten and first grade, students become more fluent readers, strengthen their comprehension skills, and gain confidence as writers. Through our Structured Literacy approach, evidence-based methods provide clear, explicit instruction to help students apply their skills to increasingly complex texts.

Throughout the year, students continue to strengthen their phonics, vocabulary, spelling, language development, fluency, and reading comprehension. Daily instruction and meaningful practice help students read with greater accuracy, confidence, and independence while developing the skills needed to think critically and comprehend what they read.

The second grade literacy block balances Foundational Skills with Knowledge Building through the use of Wilson Foundations, The Writing Revolution, and Geodes informational readers. Students continue to strengthen their decoding, spelling, handwriting, and vocabulary while reading engaging, knowledge-rich texts. Students apply these skills across the curriculum by writing informational pieces, book reports connected to Geodes texts, science writing, and realistic fiction.

WILSON FOUNDATIONS

Second grade students continue to strengthen and apply the foundational reading and writing skills developed in kindergarten and first grade. Through explicit, systematic instruction, students continue to build proficiency in phonics, decoding, spelling, handwriting, word recognition, and reading fluency.

THE WRITING REVOLUTION

Students continue to build strong writing skills through The Writing Revolution approach. Writing instruction begins with mastering complete sentences and gradually progresses to well-organized paragraphs and longer writing pieces. Students learn how to write clear topic sentences, expand ideas with supporting details, organize their thinking, revise and edit their work.

CURSIVE WRITING

Students learn cursive handwriting using the Wilson Cursive Handwriting program. Through explicit, structured instruction, students develop proper letter formation, smooth letter connections, and legible handwriting.

SECOND GRADE QUICK FACTS

- ✓ 120 minutes of literacy instruction daily
- ✓ Teacher- led explicit, systematic instruction with research-based programs to develop reading and writing fluency
- ✓ DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) given beginning- middle-, and end- of year to monitor students' reading development.



Learn more about [Canon-McMillan's Structured Literacy Program](#).



Building on the strong foundation developed in first grade, enVision+ Mathematics helps second grade students become more confident mathematicians. Throughout the year, students develop fluency with addition and subtraction within 100 and extend their understanding to numbers within 1,000 using place value strategies. They explore measurement, time, money, geometry, data, and early foundations of multiplication through equal groups and repeated addition. Students use visual models and mathematical tools to strengthen problem-solving skills while building reasoning skills.



INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH

Using the "I Do, We Do, You Do" approach, teachers provide clear, direct instruction by modeling and explaining new concepts ("I Do"), guide students through supported practice ("We Do"), and then give students opportunities to apply their learning independently ("You Do").

This research-based approach ensures students receive the instruction, practice, and feedback needed to build mastery and become confident, independent learners.

ENVISION GRADE 2 TOPICS

TOPICS 1–5: Students develop fluency with addition and subtraction within 100 by using a variety of strategies to solve problems, explain their thinking, and compare quantities.

TOPICS 6–7: Students explore measurement by working with length, money, and time while developing practical skills for solving real-world problems.

TOPIC 8: Students collect, organize, and interpret data using graphs and charts to answer questions and solve problems.

TOPICS 9–11: Students extend their understanding of place value to 1,000 and use efficient strategies to add and subtract larger numbers with accuracy and confidence.

TOPIC 12: Students investigate two- and three-dimensional shapes, identify their attributes, and explore fractions by partitioning shapes into equal shares.

GRADE 2 MATH FACTS

- ✓ 60-75 minutes of instruction daily
- ✓ Fluency practice with basic facts and computation
- ✓ Hands-on activities with math manipulatives
- ✓ Topics are sequenced to support mathematics progressions that connect new content to prior knowledge.



Learn more about each topic by visiting the Second [Grade enVision+ Resource Page](#) for families.



In second grade, using Teacher's Curriculum Institute (TCI) Social Studies Alive! - My Community, students expand their understanding of the world by exploring communities, geography, economics, history, and civics. Through engaging stories, maps, hands-on investigations, and collaborative activities, students learn how communities grow and change, how people make choices to meet their needs, and how responsible citizens can positively impact those around them. They explore Pennsylvania and the United States while developing map skills, examining historical events, and discovering the connections between people, places, and the environment.

MY COMMUNITY

Geography: Students explore the different parts of a community and the role homes play within it. They learn about rural, suburban, and urban communities while using maps to identify geographic features such as mountains, rivers, lakes, plains, deserts, valleys, oceans, and islands.

Economics: Students explore how food, clothing, and shelter come from natural resources and learn how goods are produced and delivered to consumers. They also discover the important roles of service workers and practice making thoughtful spending decisions by weighing the costs and benefits of different choices.

History: Students compare how communities have changed over time by interpreting graphs and historical photographs. They also explore their local community, learn about Pennsylvania's history and state symbols, and discover what makes their state unique.

Civics: Students explore how leaders help solve problems in their communities and learn how responsible citizens can make a positive difference. They examine the actions of community leaders and compare communities to understand their unique characteristics and needs.

GRADE 2 SOCIAL STUDIES FACTS

- ✓ 60 minutes of instruction weekly
- ✓ Hands-on collaborative learning activities
- ✓ Visual learning with maps, timelines, charts, photographs



Students learn about communities through engaging, hands-on experiences that bring social studies concepts to life. Students investigate how people work together to meet community needs, compare communities past and present, and apply their learning through collaborative discussions.



Learn more about each unit by visiting the [Second Grade Social Studies Curriculum Map](#).



In second grade, Amplify Science, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)-aligned curriculum, engages students in hands-on investigations that encourage them to think and work like scientists and engineers. Through real-world phenomena, students ask questions, make observations, analyze evidence, and develop explanations to deepen their understanding of life, physical, and Earth sciences. Throughout the year, students explore how living things depend on habitats to survive, investigate the properties of materials and how they can be used to solve problems, and discover how Earth's surface changes over time.

AMPLIFY SCIENCE GRADE 2

Plant and Animal Relationships: Students become plant scientists as they investigate how plants and animals depend on one another for survival. They collect and analyze evidence to determine why new chalta trees are not growing and explain the relationships within an ecosystem.

Properties of Materials: Students take on the role of engineers to investigate the properties of different materials. They design, test, and improve glue recipes before using evidence to recommend the best solution for their school.

Changing Landforms: As geologists, students investigate how wind, water, and erosion shape Earth's surface. They gather evidence to explain why the cliff is changing and determine whether it is safe for the nearby recreation center to remain open.



Learn more about each unit by viewing the [Second Grade Amplify Science Unit Maps](#).

GRADE 2 SCIENCE FACTS

- ✓ 120 minutes of instruction weekly
- ✓ Hands-on investigations, experiments, and simulations
- ✓ Collaborative discussions, reading, and writing opportunities to explain scientific ideas

INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH

Amplify Science



Amplify Science is aligned to the [Next Generation Science Standards \(NGSS\)](#). It is designed to help students move beyond simply learning scientific facts to investigating real-world phenomena by gathering evidence, developing explanations, and applying their learning to solve new problems.



Acting as glue engineers, students create their own sticky glue and test its strength during Properties of Material unit.



RELATED ARTS

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Related arts classes are an important part of every student's elementary school experience. Throughout the school year, students participate in Art, Music, Physical Education, and Library, where they develop skills and interests that complement their core classroom learning. Students also participate in Character Education lessons taught by the school counselor. These classes encourage creativity, curiosity, collaboration, healthy decision-making, and personal responsibility while giving students opportunities to discover new talents, build confidence, and develop lifelong interests. The elementary related arts program supports the growth of the whole child by helping students become well-rounded learners.

ART

In second grade, students build on their understanding of the elements and principles of art by creating more detailed compositions using a variety of media including drawing, painting, printmaking, and construction. They explore how art can tell stories, communicate meaning, and change over time across cultures and history. Students practice comparing and discussing artworks and continue developing creative problem-solving skills.

MUSIC

- Review and expand upon previous learning
- Sing a variety of songs with games and activities
- Learn to follow a conductor
- Play rhythms alone and with a group with correct patterns
- Learn origins of songs, music terminology at grade level
- Read rhythms and pitches

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Identify safety and responsibility to self and others by following all class rules
- Perform a variety of dynamic stretches during the warm up routine and static stretches during the cool down routine.
- Demonstrate proper techniques of manipulative skills such as ability to throw, catch, kick, punt and dribble.
- Demonstrate proper techniques of striking skills using hands, feet, and striking instruments.
- Demonstrate space awareness during cooperative group activities.
- Gain social interaction with student peers by working together and cooperative group activities.



LIBRARY

- Compare and contrast fiction and nonfiction texts while learning how each type of book is organized and used.
- Explore award-winning children's literature, including Caldecott Medal books, and learn about outstanding illustrations and authors.
- Practice using alphabetical order to locate books and organize information.
- Identify and use important nonfiction text features such as the table of contents, glossary, index, captions, maps, graphs, timelines, and bold print.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

- Develop self-awareness by recognizing emotions.
- Strengthen communication skills with active listening, collaboration, and respectful conversations.
- Build resilience and perseverance by learning to overcome challenges with a growth mindset.
- Encourages responsible decision-making that considers the well-being of self and others.
- Inspires students to contribute positively to their classroom, school, and community through kindness, service, and good citizenship.

