



Second Grade Curriculum Guide

- ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS • AMPLIFY CKLA
- MATHEMATICS • ENVISION
- SCIENCE • SAVVAS ELEVATESCIENCE
- SOCIAL STUDIES • MCGRAW HILL IMPACT
- ELECTIVES

About this guide: This document describes the instructional programs, standards, pacing, and expectations for all Second Grade students at Southfield Public Schools. It is intended to support teachers, families, and administrators in understanding what students learn and why.

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SECTION 1

Our Instructional Philosophy

Southfield Public Schools provides rigorous, joyful, and equitable instruction for every student. In Second Grade, we build on the literacy and numeracy foundations of Kindergarten and First Grade, completing the K–5 phonics code while deepening students' ability to read, write, think critically, and investigate across disciplines.

ALL STUDENTS CAN AND WILL READ

We use the Science of Reading to deliver explicit, systematic literacy instruction to every child. Amplify CKLA (Grades K–5) ensures all students receive the structured code instruction their brains need.

CURIOSITY DRIVES SCIENCE LEARNING

Students learn by investigating real phenomena. SAVVAS elevateScience anchors every unit in a question worth investigating and builds authentic scientific thinking from day one.

KNOWLEDGE FUELS COMPREHENSION

Decoding alone is not enough. Students who build rich background knowledge across history, science, geography, and literature become stronger readers over time. Our programs deliberately build this foundation at every grade level.

SECTION 2

English Language Arts

● Amplify CKLA — Third Edition

Grades
K–5

Southfield Public Schools has adopted **Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA), Third Edition** as the core ELA instructional program for **Grades K–5**. CKLA is among the nation's highest-rated literacy curricula for alignment to the Science of Reading and the Common Core State Standards. Students receive two dedicated ELA blocks each day.

SKILLS STRAND • DAILY

Learning to Read

Explicit, systematic phonics — teaching students which letters and combinations represent which sounds in a carefully planned sequence. Grade 1 covers advanced vowel teams, r-controlled vowels, syllable types, and beginning morphology.

KNOWLEDGE STRAND • DAILY

Reading to Learn

Sequenced read-alouds build vocabulary, background knowledge, and comprehension across science, history, literature, and geography — the content knowledge that expert readers rely on throughout their academic lives.

Grade 1 ELA Learning Priorities

FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS (RF.2)

- Decode words with advanced vowel patterns: *igh, -y, ei, ey, ie, air/are, ear/eer, oor/ore*
- Read and spell plurals (-s, -es, -ies) and possessives with apostrophes
- Apply inflected endings with all spelling changes (doubling, drop-e, y→i)
- Use prefixes (un-, re-, pre-, dis-) and suffixes (-tion, -ful, -less, -ness, -ment)
- Decode multisyllabic words using VCCV and VCV syllable division
- Read with sufficient fluency and expression to support comprehension (RF.2.4)

LANGUAGE (L.2)

- Use collective nouns, irregular plurals, and reflexive pronouns correctly
- Form and use past tense of frequently occurring irregular verbs
- Write simple, compound, and complex sentences with correct punctuation
- Use commas in greetings, closings, and before conjunctions in compound sentences

READING LITERATURE & INFORMATIONAL (RL.2, RI.2)

- Recount stories and determine their central message (RL.2.2)
- Describe how characters respond to challenges (RL.2.3)
- Describe the overall structure of a story, including how the beginning introduces and the ending concludes (RL.2.5)
- Identify the main purpose of an informational text (RI.2.6)
- Describe the connections between historical events, scientific ideas, or steps in a process (RI.2.3)
- Identify the author's reasons and evidence in an argument (RI.2.8)

WRITING (W.2)

- Write opinion pieces with a clear reason and concluding statement (W.2.1)
- Write informative/explanatory pieces with facts and definitions (W.2.2)
- Write narratives with detailed events and a sense of closure (W.2.3)
- Participate in shared and independent research projects (W.2.7)

Second Grade Knowledge Domains

Domain	Content Focus	Writing Connection
D1. Fairy Tales & Tall Tales	Classic fairy tales & American tall tales; story structure, character traits, exaggeration	Retell a fairy tale; write a tall tale with exaggeration
D2. Ancient Greece	Greek city-states, democracy & citizenship; Athens vs. Sparta; Greek legacy	Informative writing: a feature of ancient Greek life
D3. Greek Myths	Mythology: gods & goddesses, hero journeys; Hercules, Odysseus, Prometheus	Write a modern myth; compare a myth to a folktale
D4. Cycles in Nature	Water cycle, carbon cycle, rock cycle; seasons & food webs; weather patterns	Informative writing: explain a cycle; compare two ecosystems
D5. Insects	Insect anatomy; complete & incomplete metamorphosis; pollination; monarch migration	Research writing: life cycle of an insect
D6. The American Civil War	Causes of the Civil War; Lincoln & the Emancipation Proclamation; Reconstruction	Informative essay on a Civil War figure; opinion writing
D7. Poetry: Sounds & Stanzas	Rhyme, rhythm, meter; figurative language; Langston Hughes & Emily Dickinson	Write original poems; analyze and compare two poems
D8. Journeys to America: Immigration ADOPTED	Waves of immigration; Ellis Island; push & pull factors; immigrant contributions	Informative essay: an immigrant group's experience
D9. Building Blocks: Nutrition ADOPTED	Food groups & MyPlate; macronutrients; digestion; food labels; global food traditions	Opinion writing: healthy eating; research a food tradition
D10. Taking Flight: The Age of Aviation	Wright Brothers; Lindbergh & Earhart; jet age; space age; aviation careers	Research writing: an aviation pioneer; class timeline

SECTION 3

The Science of Reading in Practice

The **Science of Reading** refers to decades of research from cognitive science, linguistics, and education defining how the brain learns to read. Amplify CKLA (K–5) is built on this research, providing structured literacy instruction that works for all learners.

1 Phonological Awareness Hear, blend, and segment sounds in spoken words	2 Phonics & Decoding Map sounds to spellings systematically	3 Fluency Read with accuracy, rate, and expression	4 Vocabulary Build word knowledge through wide reading and discussion	5 Comprehension Apply strategies to understand complex texts
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STRUCTURED LITERACY IN EVERY CLASSROOM

Every CKLA Skills lesson follows a consistent structured literacy routine: phoneme awareness warm-up → phonics instruction → word reading and chaining → decodable text reading → spelling and writing practice. This predictable structure supports all learners, including students with dyslexia or language differences. End-of-unit Skills assessments guide differentiation and intervention at all grade levels K–5.

SECTION 5

Mathematics

● **enVision Mathematics** Grades K–5

Southfield uses **enVision Mathematics** for Grades K–5. In Second Grade, the program deepens place value understanding to 1000, introduces more complex addition and subtraction strategies, and expands work with measurement, data, and geometry. Each lesson opens with a problem-based *Solve & Share* task that builds conceptual understanding.

OPERATIONS & ALGEBRAIC THINKING (2.OA)

- Add and subtract fluently within 20 using mental strategies
- Solve one- and two-step word problems within 100
- Determine whether a group is odd or even
- Use arrays to represent repeated addition

NUMBER & OPERATIONS IN BASE TEN (2.NBT)

- Understand place value to 1000 (hundreds, tens, ones)
- Count within 1000; skip count by 5s, 10s, and 100s
- Add and subtract within 1000 using strategies and algorithms
- Mentally add or subtract 10 or 100 from any number

MEASUREMENT & DATA (2.MD)

- Measure and estimate lengths in standard units (inches, feet, centimeters)
- Tell and write time to the nearest 5 minutes; use AM and PM
- Solve word problems involving dollar bills, quarters, dimes, nickels, and pennies
- Represent data on line plots and bar graphs; solve problems using data

GEOMETRY (2.G)

- Recognize and draw shapes with specified attributes (angles, equal faces)
- Partition rectangles into rows and columns of equal-sized squares
- Partition circles and rectangles into equal shares; describe using fractions (halves, thirds, fourths)

SECTION 6

Science

● **SAVVAS elevateScience** Grades K–5

Southfield has adopted **SAVVAS elevateScience** for Grades K–5. In Second Grade, students investigate more complex phenomena and develop stronger science and engineering practices. All units are aligned to the **Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)**.

THREE DIMENSIONS OF SCIENCE LEARNING (NGSS)

Disciplinary Core Ideas

The key science concepts students need to know

Science & Engineering Practices

How scientists investigate and engineers design

Crosscutting Concepts

Ideas that apply across all science disciplines

Second Grade Science Units

Unit & NGSS Standard	Phenomenon & Key Questions	Core Concepts
Unit 1: Changes to Earth's Surface 2-ESS1-1, 2-ESS2-1, 2-ESS2-2	How does Earth's surface change over time? What causes those changes?	Weathering and erosion shape Earth's surface; maps show where water and land are; humans can change Earth's surface
Unit 2: Properties of Matter 2-PS1-1 through 2-PS1-4	What are things made of? How can we change materials?	Matter has observable properties; heating and cooling can change materials; some changes are reversible and some are not
Unit 3: Interdependence in Ecosystems 2-LS2-1, 2-LS2-2, 2-LS4-1	How do plants and animals depend on each other and their habitat?	Plants depend on pollinators; animals disperse seeds; habitats provide food, water, and shelter; biodiversity supports ecosystems
Unit 4: Earth's Resources & Engineering K-2-ETS1-1 through K-2-ETS1-3	How can we use engineering to solve problems? How do we take care of Earth's resources?	Engineers identify problems, generate solutions, and test and improve designs; conserving Earth's resources protects the environment

SECTION 7

Social Studies

● McGraw Hill IMPACT Social Studies

Grades
K–

Southfield uses McGraw Hill IMPACT Social Studies for Grades K–5. In Second Grade, students broaden their understanding from self and family to wider communities. IMPACT uses an inquiry-based approach anchored in compelling questions, primary sources, and evidence-based discussion. Hill

SECOND GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES — UNITS

Unit	Focus
Unit 1	Being a Good Citizen — civic values, rights and responsibilities, community participation
Unit 2	Government & Leadership — local, state, and national government; elected leaders; how laws are made
Unit 3	Communities Around the World — urban, suburban, and rural communities; comparing communities globally
Unit 4	Economic Choices — scarcity; opportunity cost; producers and consumers; trade and markets
Unit 5	History of Our Community — how our community has changed over time; primary sources and artifacts
Unit 6	Geography of Communities — physical and human features; how geography shapes community life

INQUIRY PROCESS (C3 FRAMEWORK)

- Construct compelling questions
- Gather and evaluate sources
- Develop claims with evidence
- Communicate and take action

KEY STANDARDS (MICHIGAN GLCE)

All IMPACT units are aligned to Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations for Social Studies, covering civic values, geographic literacy, historical thinking, and economic reasoning at the Second Grade level.

SECTION 8

Electives

Elective offerings at Southfield Public Schools depend on the individual school building. Second Grade students may have access to one or more of the following enrichment and specialty areas. Please contact your child's school directly for the specific elective schedule at your building.

WORLD LANGUAGE — SPANISH

Introduction to Spanish language and Latin American cultures. Students develop basic conversational vocabulary, practice listening and speaking skills, and explore cultural traditions through songs, games, and stories.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Gross motor skill development, spatial awareness, and cooperative play. Students participate in fitness activities, games, and movement challenges aligned to Michigan Health Education Standards, building habits of physical wellness that last a lifetime.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS — DANCE

Creative movement, rhythmic awareness, and expressive dance forms. Students explore elements of dance (body, space, time, energy) and develop coordination, self-expression, and cultural appreciation through movement.

TECHNOLOGY

Foundational digital literacy including keyboarding, responsible technology use, and introduction to digital tools. Students develop age-appropriate technology skills in alignment with ISTE Standards for Students.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS — MUSIC

Foundational music literacy including rhythm, melody, dynamics, and music from diverse cultural traditions. Students sing, play instruments, move to music, and explore musical concepts aligned to Michigan Visual and Performing Arts Standards.

NOTE TO FAMILIES

Elective schedules are determined at the building level and are subject to change. Contact your school's main office for the most current information about elective offerings and scheduling for your child.

SECTION 9

Social-Emotional Learning

Southfield Public Schools integrates social-emotional learning (SEL) throughout the school day. Second Grade students develop competencies aligned to the **CASEL framework**: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. SEL is embedded in daily routines, morning meetings, and subject-area instruction.

SECOND GRADE SEL FOCUS AREAS

- Identifying and naming emotions; managing frustration and strong feelings
- Deepening friendship skills: listening, taking turns, resolving conflicts
- Practicing perspective-taking and empathy across diverse experiences
- Strengthening growth mindset: embracing challenges as learning opportunities
- Building responsible decision-making in peer and community situations

INTEGRATION ACROSS SUBJECTS

CKLA Knowledge domains — including the Civil War, immigration, and tales of heroes — provide rich opportunities to explore themes of fairness, courage, belonging, and community. Teachers intentionally connect SEL competencies to literature and content across the Second Grade year.

SECTION 10

Assessment & Reporting

Southfield Public Schools uses multiple forms of assessment to monitor student progress and guide instruction. Assessment data informs differentiation, intervention decisions, and communication with families.

Assessment Type	Program/Tool	Frequency	Purpose
ELA Skills Assessment	Amplify CKLA	End of each unit	Monitor phonics mastery; identify students needing support or enrichment
ELA Knowledge Assessment	Amplify CKLA	End of each domain	Assess vocabulary and comprehension; inform re-teaching decisions
Math Unit Assessments	enVision	End of each topic/unit	Measure mastery of CCSS-M standards; guide grouping and intervention
Science Performance Tasks	SAVVAS elevateScience	End of each unit	Evaluate NGSS science and engineering practices through authentic tasks
Social Studies Assessments	McGraw Hill IMPACT	End of each unit	Check understanding of civics, history, geography, and economics concepts
Progress Reports	Southfield SIS	4 times/year (quarterly)	Communicate student performance across all subject areas to families
Reading Fluency Check	CKLA / Teacher observation	Ongoing	Monitor reading accuracy, rate, and expression; flag for early intervention
State Assessments	Michigan M-STEP	Spring (Grade 3+)	Measure grade-level proficiency; Grade 1 does not take M-STEP

EARLY LITERACY SCREENING

In alignment with Michigan's Read by Third Grade Law, Southfield administers early literacy screeners to all students in Grades K–3 to identify students at risk for reading difficulties. Students identified as needing support receive targeted intervention through our tiered support system.

SECTION 11

Family Partnership

Families are essential partners in student success. Here are meaningful ways to support your Second Grader at home:

SUPPORTING ELA (CKLA) AT HOME

- Read together daily — ask your Second Grader to read aloud from school books
- Discuss story characters and events: *"Why do you think the character did that?"*
- Connect Knowledge topics to real life: talk about the Civil War, insects, or Greek myths
- Visit amplify.com/caregiver-hub/amplify-ckla for family resources

SUPPORTING MATHEMATICS AT HOME

- Practice adding and subtracting two-digit numbers mentally
- Count coins and make change during errands
- Read analog clocks at home to the nearest 5 minutes

SUPPORTING SCIENCE AT HOME

- Explore matter: freeze water, observe melting ice — *"Is that change reversible?"*
- Observe soil, rocks, and erosion outdoors; look for weathering on sidewalks and walls
- Watch for pollinators in gardens; discuss how bees and butterflies help plants

STAYING CONNECTED

- Review quarterly progress reports and reach out with questions
- Attend parent-teacher conferences in fall and spring
- Contact your child's teacher whenever you have concerns or want to celebrate successes

CURRICULUM CONTACTS

For questions about Second Grade curriculum, instructional programs, or assessment, please contact the **Southfield Public Schools Office of Curriculum & Instruction**. Your child's classroom teacher is always your first point of contact for questions about your child's specific progress and learning.



SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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