Springhurst Elementary School
Independent Thinkers Change Worlds

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Second Grade Curriculum

Second grade is an important year in your child's elementary experience. They have become familiar with the school setting and have settled into the routines of classrooms and active learning. Second graders learn to balance their desire to socialize and to gain immediate gratification by practicing patience and cooperation. Teachers follow the DFSD approved academic programs that are aligned with the Next Gen Learning Standards. Lessons are expanded and modified to meet the needs and interests of our students. We use hands-on learning experiences to make learning fun and impactful.

English Language Arts

Bookworms, the K-5 curriculum, provides the instruction that each of the students needs and deserves as they are actively reading, writing, listening, and speaking about complex ideas every day. A Bookworms classroom has three designated literacy blocks each day: Shared Reading, English Language Arts, and Differentiated Instruction.

- Within the *Shared Reading* block, children will partake in rereading activities and discussions to build students' ability to read fluently, build vocabulary, and to think critically about text.
- The *English Language Arts* block features a read-aloud to build language and vocabulary knowledge, build world knowledge, and improve students' inferential thinking. During this time, students participate in genre-based writing with embedded grammar instruction.
- In the *Differentiated Instruction* time, children work through cycles of teacher-led and student-driven activities addressing specific individual needs.

Another component of the Bookworms Reading and Writing day is a dedication to word study. Word study is a type of spelling instruction that is designed to help children link sound and pattern so that they can read and spell unknown words. Students in all grade levels have a daily designated time for word study instruction and time to practice the words across the week.

Math

IM Math™ (Illustrative Mathematics) is fully aligned to the focus, rigor, and coherence of the standards, and has been given the stamp of approval by EdReports, earning perfect scores in the areas of Focus & Coherence and Rigor & Mathematical Practices. The scope and sequence of units, activities and representations are designed to help students develop a deep understanding of mathematical concepts, build fluency with procedures and solve mathematical problems that reflect and connect to their lived experiences. A problem based curriculum, IM places a focus on student thinking and reasoning, mathematical discourse, and student collaboration.

Topics of Study for Grade 2:

- Adding, Subtracting, and Working with Data
- Adding and Subtracting within 100
- Measuring Length
- Addition and Subtraction on the Number Line
- Numbers to 1000
- Geometry, Time, and Money
- Adding and Subtracting within 1000
- Equal Groups

Link to family website: Illustrative Mathematics Website

Social Studies, Science, and Social Emotional

Second graders are interested in the world around them. They are naturally curious and love to learn. We observe, make comparisons, discuss and wonder about the world around us. One underlying concept that occurs often in second grade is that of interdependence.

Our social studies curriculum is developed by PNW Boces. It is aligned with the NYS Framework and with the Next Gen Standards. Our units of study are; Active Citizenship. Economics, Rural, Suburban and Urban Communities, and Geography of Communities. We will work to understand differences and similarities in these various communities through stories and videos.

Science 21 is the science curriculum at Springhurst. It is also licensed through PNW Boces. It is designed to help students investigate and to understand the world around them by using scientific and engineering practices. Children participate in science investigations and work collaboratively to solve problems with design and testing. We have 3 units of study in second grade. The units are: Structure and Properties of Matter, Earth's Systems; Processes that Shape the Earth, and Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems. In all areas we stress individual growth and "learning how to learn." The children are encouraged to explore, question, discuss and share insights.

Second Step is a social emotional program adopted by Springhurst. It is a program with developmentally appropriate topics to help children to name and navigate their feelings. Second Step thoughtfully teaches strategies for individual self regulating. Students learn to Belly Breathe, to empathize with others, to celebrate differences and the importance of listening and keeping a calm body.

Homework

English Language Arts: Instead of traditional homework, we encourage families to engage in reading together, discussing the themes and characters, and sharing personal reflections about the texts. The type of text chosen does not matter. Students can choose magazines, books, newspapers, blogs, informative texts, or fiction texts. All of these provide an opportunity for children to build vocabulary, world knowledge, and understanding of text structures. Also in line with Bookworms' philosophy around homework, they do not suggest sending spelling lists home, as the goal is to move away from rote memorization and to help students develop a strong understanding of spelling conventions and concepts.

Math: Math homework will be given on a regular basis. Teachers will communicate how and when homework should be turned in. The purpose of these assignments is to practice concepts the child is working on at school. Please set aside a quiet time and place for homework. Encourage your child to work independently as much as possible. Your interest in your child's work is an important component in the development of good work habits and a positive attitude.

Communications

It is helpful to advise a teacher if your child has had a particularly difficult time, is experiencing some sort of change, or is under any unusual stress. Throughout the year, we will be observing your child's growth and development so that we can support his/her individual needs. We are always available to discuss any thoughts, questions or concerns.

We look forward to a wonderful year with your child! Thank you!