WILLIAMSVILLE
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Est. 1893

GRADE 2

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATIONS

New York State learning standards outline what students should know and be able to do by the end of second grade while continuing to develop critical thinking, communication, creativity, collaboration, and independence. Throughout the year, second graders build on the skills learned in primary grades as they become more confident readers, writers, mathematicians, scientists, artists, musicians, and responsible citizens. The skills identified below represent a consolidated list of the most important grade-level learning priorities. They are not intended to represent a comprehensive list of all standards or content taught during second grade. Instruction encompasses the full range of New York State grade-level standards across all subject areas.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)

- Analyze why a character acts the way they do and distinguish between different points of view (e.g., how a narrator's perspective differs from a character's) and answer inferential and evaluative questions about texts and respond in writing.
- Conduct shared research projects, learning to record and synthesize facts using graphic organizers to compare and contrast two different topics.
- Apply learning through a plan-draft-edit writing process across opinion, informative and narrative text types.
- Apply quotation marks for dialogue and capitalization/punctuation.
- Apply learning when combining simple ideas into compound sentences using conjunctions (such as or, and, but).
- Distinguish shades of meaning among closely related adjectives and verbs and apply knowledge of prefixes and root words to determine the meaning of new vocabulary.
- Develop understanding of long-vowel spelling alternatives and that one sound can be spelled many ways (like the /ae/ sound in gate, wait, and day). Build and decode two-syllable words and identify tricky spellings (like when g represents /g/ as in got versus /j/ as in gem).
- Develop fluency skills to increase accuracy, rate and expression.

MATH

- Read, write, compare, and represent numbers to 1,000 using place value.
- Add and subtract within 1,000 using efficient strategies and place value.
- Solve one- and two-step addition and subtraction word problems within 100.
- Classify two-dimensional shapes and partition shapes into equal fractional parts.
- Measure, estimate, and compare lengths using standard measurement tools and units.
- Interpret graphs, tell time to the nearest five minutes, and solve money problems.



SCIENCE

- Classify materials by their physical properties (such as hardness, texture, and flexibility) to determine which are best suited for specific uses.
- Investigate how heating and cooling cause reversible or permanent changes to matter, and how small building blocks can be reassembled into new objects.
- Determine what plants need to grow (sunlight and water) and build models showing how animals assist plants with pollination and seed dispersal.
- Compare the wide diversity of plant and animal life living across different land and aquatic habitats.
- Identify Earth's landforms, bodies of water, and the different states of water (solid ice versus liquid) using maps and models.
- Evaluate fast and slow Earth processes (like volcanic eruptions or gradual erosion) and test solutions to prevent wind and water from reshaping the land.

SCREENING

- Grade-level assessments are designed to measure student progress, guide instruction, and ensure students receive the appropriate resources and support to meet grade-level expectations.
- Reading: The Aimsweb Universal Screener is utilized three times per year to assess each of the following: oral reading fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension.
- Math: The Aimsweb Concepts and Applications (M-CAP) test is a brief, standardized assessment measuring general math understanding, higher-order thinking, and multi-step problem solving for grades 2 through 8.

STATE ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- WIDA Access for students identified as English language learners



GRADE 2

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Compare urban, suburban, and rural communities while exploring maps, continents, oceans, and the physical features that shape where people live.
- Discover how families and communities around the world meet their needs, honor traditions, and contribute to society.
- Learn how local governments, community leaders, and responsible citizens work together to support their communities.
- Explore how people produce, buy, sell, and exchange goods and services to meet their needs.
- Investigate how communities change over time through technology, transportation, migration, and historical events.
- Examine how people adapt to and modify their environment to improve daily life.

ART

- Create and develop original artwork by exploring, planning, and expressing ideas using a variety of materials, tools, and techniques.
- Present artwork by selecting, preparing, and sharing work while explaining artistic choices and creative processes.
- Respond to artwork by observing, describing, interpreting, and evaluating works of art using age-appropriate art vocabulary.
- Connect art to personal experiences, other subject areas, cultures, traditions, and historical contexts to deepen understanding of art and its role in the world.

MUSIC

- Create simple rhythms and melodies using singing, instruments, movement, and sound.
- Perform and respond to music by singing, playing, and moving while identifying basic musical elements (beat, tempo, dynamics, and pitch) and describing what is heard and felt.
- Present music by participating in classroom performances and demonstrating appropriate performance etiquette.
- Connect music to personal experiences, other subject areas, cultures, traditions, and historical contexts to deepen understanding of music and its role in the world.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Demonstrate competency in a variety of motor skills and movement patterns.
- Apply knowledge of concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics related to movement and performance.
- Demonstrate the knowledge and skills to achieve and maintain a health enhancing level of physical activity and fitness.
- Recognize the value of physical activity for overall wellness, enjoyment, challenge, and/or self expression.

TIPS FOR PARENTS/ GUARDIANS

Advanced Reading: Choose books for reading together that are about two levels more difficult than what they can read alone to build vocabulary.

Math: Encourage your child to solve mental math problems by looking for "friendly" numbers. For example, ask, "How could you make a ten or a hundred first?" rather than immediately reaching for paper and resorting to an algorithm.

Practical Application: Use maps to plan trips or map out your neighborhood, and practice telling time together.

Lifelong Learning: Let your child see you learning new words; modeling curiosity is powerful.

Civic and Global Engagement: Explore maps together by locating your home, school, and important places in your community.

Scientific Thinking: Encourage your child to make observations and compare plants, animals, land, water, weather, and how Earth changes over time. Have students investigate various materials and their properties through everyday activities, and explain what they discover.

Home Language Use: Use your native language at home with your child. Strong native language skills help students to succeed in school.