

Second Grade

In Second Grade, the students begin the year with the fundamentals of how to read and strive toward becoming independent readers. Through a variety of learning experiences, such as individual centers, guided reading groups, hands-on activities, and individual and group reading, the students improve their reading fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, grammar and phonics skills. The goal is to foster a lifelong love of reading in each student.

The goal of the Second Grade writing program is for the students to be able to communicate clearly and effectively in a variety of contexts. Students use writing in all areas of the curriculum. They write math stories, science and social studies reports, creative stories and poetry. Second Grade explores the writing process by brainstorming ideas, drafting, editing, publishing and presenting a final written product.

Math concepts are first introduced with hands-on materials in an exploratory environment. Students transition from experiential learning to practical paper-pencil applications. Students will be proficient in addition and subtraction, introduced to multiplication and division; they will understand geometric shapes, count money, tell time and apply math concepts to real-life situations. Using critical thinking to solve word problems is also stressed.

Science is a time for students to work collaboratively, learn by doing, and have an appreciation and understanding for the world they live in. Students learn about plants, animals and their habitats, weather and earth changes, dinosaurs and the solar system.

Technology is woven throughout the curriculum. Students frequently use computers and I pads to enhance technology literacy, play math games, and develop projects. Students use various apps to enhance several units of study in addition to making a PowerPoint presentation along with a fifth grade partner on a particular dinosaur studied.

Community service and character development are the cornerstone of the Social Studies program. Second-graders actively engage in helping others both in and outside the school setting by reading to kindergarteners and to the elderly in nursing homes. Components of the Social Studies program include an appreciation of cultural diversity, introduction to historical people and events, geography and mapping skills and the study of local and national holidays.

The social and emotional development of second-graders emphasizes compassion towards others and an appreciation and respect for differences. This is accomplished through literature, role-playing, and team-building activities. Students leave Second Grade comfortable, confident and with the maturity necessary to transition to Third Grade.

In addition to the range of activities children experience with their classroom teacher, they leave their classroom daily and work with specially trained teachers to enjoy one or more of the following “Specials” classes: Physical Education, Studio Art, Music, Library and Spanish.