

Guide to Student Learning in Second Grade



*The student learning guide provides valuable information on what students learn in second grade.
Use this information to support and reinforce learning at home.*

At primary schools, all students will acquire foundational literacy and math skills in child-centered learning environments. The primary school program engages students in a variety of literacy experiences and interactions that introduce and reinforce essential literacy skills and strategies.

Classroom instruction is shaped by the guiding principle that all students must acquire the foundational reading and writing skills necessary to be strategic readers, thinkers, and writers. Language, reading, and writing skills are explicitly taught during English Language Arts instruction. Social studies and science instruction are used to apply and reinforce literacy skills as students use oral language, reading, and writing skills to learn essential understanding.

Information and communication technology instruction is embedded into all content areas. The district provides each student with a device to introduce students to the use of technology tools for communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking.

English Language Arts (ELA)

In second grade, students will continue to develop their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills through a balanced literacy approach that includes instruction focused on modeled, shared, guided, and independent reading and writing experiences. In addition, literacy skills will be integrated into science, social studies and health instruction. Students will have ample opportunities to read, write, listen and speak in order to further understand the grade-level content.

READING: Students will use strategies to increase their fluency and comprehension of text. A variety of text and genres will be used including fiction, informational text, and poetry. Students will spend time analyzing the craft that authors use to convey messages. Second graders will also expand their knowledge in the foundational skills of consonant and vowel relationships, syllable types, and homophones.

WRITING: Students will use the writing process to write for different purposes and audiences in a variety of genres including narrative, informational, and opinion. Grade two students spend significant time writing in the content areas and begin to analyze the craft and types of language that an author uses to convey a message.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING: Students will understand that being competent in speaking and listening will allow them to take advantage of new opportunities for communication. Students will listen and speak to understand, to interact socially, to extend discussion, and to discuss content.

Mathematics

In second grade, instructional time is focused on four critical areas that will enable students to:

Extend their understanding of base-ten notation:

- Students extend their understanding of place value and the base-ten system. This includes ideas of counting in fives, tens, and multiples of hundreds, tens, and ones and number relationships involving these units.
- Students compare numbers using place value language.
- Students understand multi-digit numbers (up to 1000) written in base-ten notation, recognizing that the digits in each place represent amounts of thousands, hundreds, tens, or ones (e.g., 853 is 8 hundreds + 5 tens + 3 ones).

Build fluency with addition and subtraction:

- Students use their understanding of addition to develop fluency with addition and subtraction within 100.
- Through their understanding of place value and the properties of operations, students apply their understanding of models, for addition and subtraction, to solve problems within 1000. They develop, discuss, and use efficient, accurate, and generalizable methods to compute sums and differences of whole numbers based on place value methods.
- Student will select and accurately apply methods that are appropriate for the context and the numbers involved to mentally calculate sums and differences for numbers with only tens or only hundreds.

Make use of standard units of measure:

- Students recognize the need for standard units of measure (centimeter and inch).
- Students make use of rulers and other measurement tools with the understanding that linear measure involves an iteration of units.
- Students will recognize that the smaller the unit, the more iterations they need to cover a given length.

Describe and analyze shapes:

- Students describe and analyze shapes by examining their sides and angles.
- Students investigate, describe, and reason about decomposing and combining shapes to make other shapes.
- Through building, drawing, and analyzing two- and three-dimensional shapes, students develop a foundation for understanding area, volume, congruence, similarity, and symmetry in later grades.

Science

In second grade, science instruction will continue to develop an understanding of scientific facts, concepts, and methods. Students will learn to appreciate and understand science, how it contributes to their lives and society, and how it impacts decisions regarding the environment, career choices, and future learning.

During second grade your child will study:

- Structures and Properties of Matter
- Earth Systems: Processes that Shape the Earth
- Plant Growth: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

While engaged in these units, students will be deepening their knowledge of scientific methods by:

- Choosing the correct tools for measuring objects.
- Observing, comparing, predicting, and recording a variety of data.
- Conducting experiments by following simple instructions.
- Reading for information using nonfiction resources.

Social Studies

In second grade, students learn about “My Community and Other Communities.” Students will learn more about themselves, who they are, where they fit into the community, and the role that institutions such as government, family, and schools play in our lives.

Second grade students learn about urban, rural, and suburban communities in our region and elsewhere in the United States now and in the past. The concept about change over time is introduced and examining cause and effect relationships. Students begin to examine the availability of resources and the interdependence within and across communities.

As part of their units of learning in second grade students will:

- Learn that the United States is founded on the democratic principles of equality, fairness, and respect for authority and rules.
- Discover why there are systems of rules to help maintain peace, order, and safety in families, schools, communities, and countries.
- Learn why rules sometimes need to be changed or updated.
- Understand that rights come with responsibilities.
- Learn that communities are made up of many different groups of people who live, work, and have fun together.
- See how geography influences the development of a community.
- Understand how humans interact with the environment and use the resources available to satisfy their needs and wants.
- Come to know that all resources are scarce.
- Realize that people in communities work together to meet the needs and wants of the people who live there.
- Learn that governments collect taxes to provide goods and services to the public.

Health

In second grade, the health curriculum will inform children about physical wellness, emotional balance, and promote positive self-esteem. Children will acquire information on a variety of topics and develop a greater understanding of how to set goals and make decisions that lead to a healthy life.

Helping students learn to respect themselves and to respect others is an important component of health education at all grade levels. Second grade students will discuss the following topics:

- What makes a family a family
- How families are different from others
- What germs are and where they live
- Why we need food
- What kind of physical activities are good for their body
- How much physical activity they should get
- How to use their strengths to stay away from second-hand smoke
- What information they need to know about themselves and where they live
- Why is it important to wear a helmet while riding a bike
- How to be safe when playing on a playground
- How they can handle angry feelings
- Who can help them when they feel they are in danger
- Who it is safe for them to talk to
- What they need to know to keep themselves safe around animals

Physical Education

During physical education class, second grade students continue to build body-space awareness, eye-hand coordination, and rhythm through simple games and sports, gymnastics, and dance.

It is important for children to develop regular exercise habits and activities at an early age that will be continued throughout their lives. In order for your child to become truly fit, these activities need to continue beyond the school day. The units of study for second grade are:

- Fitness
- Fundamental movement skills/games
- Low organizational and recreational games
- Music/movement/rhythms
- Soccer
- Track & Field
- Volleyball
- Bowling
- T-Ball/Whiffle Ball
- Educational gymnastics
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

Music

Second grade music students continue to develop music literacy skills, incorporating more rhythms and pitches into their music learning experiences. Students improvise and create simple rhythmic and melodic patterns, capturing their ideas using notation. They discover harmony through speaking, singing, and playing music in two parts. Students create a class composition and discuss ways to improve their creation, deciding when it is ready to present to others. They begin to reflect on their musical ideas, soliciting and using feedback from classmates and the teacher to refine them. Students create music and movement to illustrate expressive ideas and use poetry and literature to develop music skills. They learn the various roles in a performance setting, practicing appropriate performer and audience behaviors.

Art

Second grade art students learn that art is created for different purposes and that art can be used to express mood or emotion. They add new materials, techniques, and tools to their repertoire for creating art, exploring a variety of wet and dry media while learning specific art techniques and art tools. Students create art works with line styles, organic shapes, secondary colors, implied texture, using foreground and background, and understanding the difference between artwork that is two-dimensional and three-dimensional. They continue to build the vocabulary needed to discuss art, observing and analyzing how the elements of art are present within various art works, in the natural world, and in constructed environments. Students explore famous artworks from their community and discuss the role that art plays in community.