Parent Guide to Your Child's Second Grade Program

Christian Learner/Social Emotional Learner

Christian Learners/Social and Emotional Learners possess skills and attitudes that are the foundation of learning. Our thinking, approach and actions should show everyone we are Christians. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) assists students to gain and apply knowledge, attitudes and skills to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships and make responsible decisions. The tenets of Christian living and SEL competencies support the individual throughout life. Acting as Jesus would want us to act is the goal of everyone in our Catholic school community- teachers, parents, students, staff, principals and pastors. The skills learned through understanding, adopting and practicing social and emotional competencies and the values of our Christian faith will help ensure your children have a fulfilling life. So, welcome to our Catholic school. We are pleased to partner with you in the education of your children. We promise our prayer and support, and we ask for yours. We trust Jesus to bless the education we offer in His name.

Religion

In second grade, your child will begin the immediate preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. It is an exciting time in your family's life. Your child will also learn about Creed, Christian Living, and Prayer.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 2nd Grade

- The Trinity—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit
- Creation as a gift from God
- The Sacraments as celebrations of God's love
- Celebrating Christ's life in Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time
- Vocations as a calling from God
- Living according to the Gospel
- The Mass as the perfect prayer
- The purposes and forms of prayer

English Language Arts & Literacy

Students in second grade will gain more skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. They continue to learn and practice rules for matching sounds to letters that make up words, and they learn new concepts such as words that share the same root (e.g., add and additional) that help them figure out the meanings of new words. Writing will become an exciting way for your child to use newly learned words and phrases to express ideas. As they write and speak, second graders will be more attentive to the formal and informal uses of English and will spell most words correctly in their writing.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 2nd Grade

- Paying close attention to details, including illustrations and graphics, in stories and books to answer who, what, where, when, why, and how questions
- Determining the lesson or moral of stories, fables, and folktales

- Using text features (e.g., captions, bold print, indexes) to locate key facts or information efficiently
- Writing an opinion about a book he or she has read, using important details from the materials to support that opinion
- Writing stories that include a short sequence of events and include a clear beginning, middle, and end
- Participating in shared research projects (e.g., read books on a single topic to produce a report)
- Taking part in conversations by linking his or her comments to the remarks of others and asking and answering questions to gather additional information or deepen understanding of the topic
- Retelling key information or ideas from media or books read aloud
- Producing, expanding, and rearranging sentences (e.g., "The boy watched the movie"; "The little boy watched the movie"; "The action movie was watched by the little boy")
- Determining the meaning of the new word formed when a known prefix or suffix is added to a known word (happy/unhappy; pain/painful/painless)

Mathematics

In second grade, your child will build on last year's work and gain important new skills. One of the most important outcomes for the year is to add and subtract two-digit numbers quickly and accurately (e.g., 77 – 28). Another important goal in second grade is to understand what the digits mean in a three-digit number such as 463 (namely, 463 is four hundreds, six tens, and three ones). Your child also will build expertise with solving addition and subtraction word problems. Mastering addition and subtraction at the second-grade level is important so that your child will not have to review and repeat this material in third grade when the study of multiplication, division, and fractions will start.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 2nd Grade

- Solving challenging addition and subtraction word problems with one or two steps (e.g., a "one-step" problem would be: "Lucy has 23 fewer apples than Julie. Julie has 47 apples. How many apples does Lucy have?")
- Quickly and accurately adding with a sum of 20 or less (e.g., 11 + 8); quickly and accurately subtracting from a number 20 or less (e.g., 16 - 9); and knowing all sums of one-digit numbers from memory by the end of the year
- Understanding what the digits mean in three-digit numbers (place value)
- Using understanding of place value to add and subtract three-digit numbers (e.g., 811 - 367); adding and subtracting two-digit numbers quickly and accurately (e.g., 77 - 28)
- Measuring and estimating length in standard units
- Solving addition and subtraction word problems involving length (e.g., "The pen is 2 cm longer than the pencil. If the pencil is 7 cm long, how long is the pen?")
- Building, drawing, and analyzing 2-D and 3-D shapes to develop foundations for area, volume, and geometry in later grades

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Science

In second grade, your child will be formally exposed to the scientific process. They will continue to do labs and have science experiences but will be encouraged to begin to formulate hypothesis "educated guesses" and develop the procedure "steps" to test the hypothesis. They will increase their experience with scientific tools.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 2nd Grade

- Classify different materials according to their properties
- Discover the difference between a chemical change and a physical change
- Observe some changes in nature caused by heating and cooling
- Observe the effects of sunlight on green plants
- Investigate different habitats (homes) of animals and plants based on their needs
- Observe and experience the effects of wind and rain
- Discuss safety when wind and rain are destructive with storms and flooding

Social Studies

In second grade, your child will continue to engage in social studies in all its sub-disciplines of economics, geography, history, culture but to do so in ever broadening ways. They will begin also, in very basic ways, to discover the interactions and interdependence of the sub-disciplines. Developmentally, they are able to expand their horizon beyond self and family. The focus moves to their community and other communities.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 2nd Grade

- Understand and experience that there are some written and visual materials that record information about their community now and in the past. They may be part of a family collection but also may be found in a museum or library
- Identify changes over time in their community both now and in the past
- Recognize patterns of continuity and change in their community
- Identify similarities and differences between their community and other communities
- Use location terms and geographic representations such as maps, satellite images, and models to describe where places are in relation to other places
- Explain how scarcity necessitates decision making and identify benefits and cost of decisions
- Identify the elements of the community's political system
- Show respect in issues involving differences and conflict. Participate in negotiating conflict
- Compare their community and other communities in terms of how they developed, their culture or customs, their civic ideas and how they make decisions, how they earn a living and special feature of their environment (ex. parks, museums, etc.)

Physical Education

Your second-grade child learns through demonstrating. He/she is developing good hand-eye coordination and enjoys physical activity even though he/she tires easily. Because of eagerness to please adults, your child can be over-challenged physically. The physical education program

includes motor skills, movement skills, and the relationship between physical activity and good health.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 2nd Grade

- Skipping, running, jogging, sprinting in a mature pattern; jumping and landing in a horizontal and vertical plane; dance
- Stability: twisting, curling, ending and stretching actions
- Throwing underhand and overhand, catching with hands (not trapping against the body); dribbling while walking
- Combines shapes, levels and pathways into simple travel, dance, and gymnastics sequences
- Recognizes the "good health balance" of good nutrition with physical activity
- Recognizes the role of rules and etiquette in teacher-designed physical activities and works safely with physical education equipment

Music

The music program for your second grader continues to focus on creating music, presenting music, responding to music and connecting music with everyday life. Fundamental knowledge from kindergarten and first grade is applied to new cultures and experiences.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 2nd Grade

- Understanding musical concepts such as tonality and meter
- Creating music using standard notation
- Performing music for a specific purpose with expression and technical accuracy
- Showing how personal interests and experiences influence music choices

Art

During second grade art your child will develop skills and appreciation for visual arts be more aware of its impact on appreciation of self, others, and world around us. Students will create works of art about events in school, home or community life.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 2nd Grade

- Creating works of art about events, in home, school and community life.
- Comparing and contrasting cultural uses of artwork from different times and cultures.
- Analyzing how art exhibited in school, museums, and galleries, contributes to the community