

Second Grade Curriculum

Literacy

The second grade reading curriculum focuses on the idea that in order to be a good reader many comprehension skills and strategies must be used while reading. During reader's workshop students are instructed through mini-lessons, guided reading, strategy sessions and individual conferences. This allows students to progress through the reading levels as their fluency and comprehension improve. During word study, spelling patterns are reinforced and students are encouraged to expand their vocabulary.

Writing

Through a Writer's Workshop approach, students experience the writing process. They move through brainstorming, drafting, editing, individual teacher conferencing, publishing, and sharing. Students study and create a variety of types of writing including personal narratives, letters, biographies, research reports, and poetry. Numerous skills and strategies used by good writers are taught throughout the year, with an additional emphasis on grammar and mechanics. Cursive handwriting is introduced in January.

Math

At the elementary level, math topics are introduced, developed and applied throughout each grade level. The aim is to provide a balance between computational skills, conceptual understanding, estimating, and problem solving; while developing mathematical reasoning and critical thinking skills. Students in the second grade will gain a greater understanding of place value; apply number sense to number operations, master 2 and 3 digit addition and subtraction with and without regrouping. Fractions and multiplication will be introduced through manipulatives. Students will understand length, time, and temperature and be able to identify appropriate measurement tools. Money as a medium of exchange will be developed. The students will acquire and apply mathematical concepts, skills, and language to problem solving.

Social Studies

In Social Studies, students gain a respect for our world past and present. Students obtain an appreciation for the birth and growth of our nation through the study of Native Americans and Colonial and Pioneer life. The basic hierarchy of government is introduced with a study of Washington D.C. Map skills are emphasized throughout the year. Students will identify oceans, continents, countries, states and capitals, urban and rural areas, transportation, and means of communication. Specific countries studied will be Ireland and the United States.

Science

The Second grade science curriculum teaches students several different topics. Students will combine guided discussions, research, and hands on activities to gain scientific knowledge. A weather unit invites students to explore the world around them through

observation and data collection. Students use their personal knowledge in addition to new information presented to become well informed meteorologists. Continuing to learn about the earth and its surroundings includes a rainforest unit in which students will explore the animals, plants and effects of pollution. We will delve into the ocean to learn about the complex system that makes up our water. Both units on the ocean and rainforest will help students gain an appreciation for the world around them. Second grade students will also study dinosaurs and their eventual extinction from the world. They will learn to answer increasingly complex questions as to *why* the dinosaurs are no longer living and what effects of them we are still able to see today. In physical science we will study magnets and gain a great deal of knowledge from hands on experiments designed to let students “discover” elements of magnetism. Finally, students will learn about nutrition in a unit that helps them understand what their body needs to be healthy.

Chorus

All Atlanta Academy students in grades K-3 participate in the Chorus. The goals in chorus are to develop the unique voice while making music. Other goals of the program are to develop musicianship through singing, sight-reading, theory practice, and listening to, analyzing and critiquing music. The chorus performs multiple times throughout the year including Grandparent’s Day, Christmas, and Night of the Arts.

Music

Fine-tuning of the singing voice occurs and musical notation is expanded. Children are exposed to a variety of music and begin to analyze and describe it through movement, verbally and through art. Use of instruments becomes even more complex.

Library

Students continue to receive library orientation and learn Media Center behavior patterns and procedures. Classes come to the library on a Weekly basis. Use of the library’s online catalog to locate books will be introduced. Student’s knowledge of book arrangement by alphabetical or numeric order (Dewey Decimal System) is expanded upon, with emphasis on locating desired items on the shelf. Students use dictionaries and encyclopedias, both hard copy and online as sources of information. Georgia Book Awards and the Caldecott award are reviewed with emphasis on the importance of illustrations to help in getting the author’s ideas across. Previously learned library terms are reviewed with the addition of Index and Glossary. Various authors will be introduced and students will prepare short biographies and presentations of children’s authors. Students will be encouraged to begin selecting short chapter books on their reading level.

Technology

Students spend the first quarter using the typing program “Mavis Beacon Typing Tutor”. Throughout the year students are introduced to computer basics while using PCs and Apple computers. Students create cross-curriculum projects using a variety of programs. Applications include but are not limited to multimedia, Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Publisher. Applications are taught in both the PC and Apple formats.

Spanish

Students will demonstrate receptive and productive knowledge of themes such as colors, numbers, calendar, weather, emotions, school supplies, family, body parts, foods, and animals. Throughout the year, students will also learn about Hispanic culture and holidays. The language is taught with emphasis on speaking.

Art

Students are introduced to many different mediums and processes. The emphasis is on the creative process, art production and following directions. They will develop and begin to master: caring for materials, drawing skills, painting skills, manipulating clay, cutting, gluing, manipulating paper, printmaking, collage, and sculptures.

Projects are designed to allow students to practice and refine basic skills focusing on color, shape, line, value and texture. Students are introduced to the balance, emphasis and proportion of design. Students learn to use and recognize differences in art media. They will learn to mix primary colors to make secondary colors, make colors lighter and darker, use watercolors and make crayon resists. Students manipulate clay and learn to score and join clay pieces, while also learning the process of glazing clay.

Students are exposed to the area of different cultures, the different styles of art and famous artists. Students will learn to recognize, appreciate and create the art of different cultures and famous works of art. There is an emphasis to expand art vocabulary and exposure to famous works of art.

Physical Education

Children develop more complex motor skills through participation in basic group activities. Included in these are basic soccer, basketball, volleyball and kickball. The concepts of sportsmanship and personal effort are emphasized. Circuit training is continued to improve skills such as: jump rope, sit-ups, catching & throwing, dribbling, and kicking.