

## Second Grade Basic Subjects

**Religion:** The main emphasis in second-grade religion is preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. You will receive complete information about both sacraments at a **mandatory parent meeting** on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the church hall. Reconciliation will be held Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. First Communion will be on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am. Second graders also continue learning and practicing Christian values, reading Bible stories, completing Religion book exercises, and participating in Mass.

**Mathematics:** In second grade, we build on basic adding and subtracting skills from first grade. We are using the Houghton Mifflin Mathematics Program. Our main focus is renaming (carrying, borrowing, or "regrouping") to the hundreds place in both addition and subtraction. We are also studying place value, estimation, measurement, money, telling time, fractions, algebraic concepts, patterns, graphing, and geometry. We may begin multiplication in the spring.

\*\*\*\*The blue Mathsteps workbook is to be kept at home at all times and will be strictly used for homework. If they are asked to complete an assignment from the workbook, students will tear out the sheet and bring it back the next day.

Mastery of the addition and subtraction facts (up to  $9+9$  and  $18-9$ ) is essential to understanding second-grade math topics. As part of our daily study routine, please work with your child on the math facts. Flash cards are an excellent way to practice the facts.

\*\*\*\*Speedy Pirates- Students will be given timed math drills daily starting with addition facts, then subtraction, and then mixed facts. The drills will be sent home with their packet of graded homework weekly. We will continuously keep track of what level they are on, and students will be rewarded for completing the drills at a successful rate.

**Language Arts:** We spend three hours a day on Language Arts in second grade. Reading, Writing, Handwriting, Phonics, Spelling, Listening and Speaking are all components of the Language Arts curriculum.

**Reading:** A great emphasis will be placed on oral reading fluency and comprehension. We will use the Houghton Mifflin Reading Program, which has a reading series with the accompanying workbooks and supplemental phonics readers. The children will read aloud in reading groups and as a whole class.

\*\*\*\*Each child must always have a "fun" book to read in his/her desk at all times. This book can be the book he/she is reading independently at home, from the school library, or from the classroom. If students finish their seatwork, they will be asked to read from this book.

**Writing:** In second grade, we place heavy emphasis on grammar, punctuation, sentence structure and forming organized paragraphs. Through a workshop approach, students will be familiar with the stages of writing (Prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing). Students will have the opportunity to write personal narratives, friendly letters, mystery stories, reports, fables, and other types of stories.

**Spelling:** We are using the Scott Foresman Spelling Grade 2 Workbook. The students will be expected to complete their spelling unit in the book by Wednesday morning. On Thursday we'll have a Pretest to make sure the students are prepared for the actual Test on Friday. The challenge words listed at the bottom of each unit will be included on the test. Some weeks there will be additional challenge words other than those in their spelling book, and we will send those home on a separate sheet of paper on Monday.

Typical Weekly Spelling Schedule:

Monday: Introduce words in class. Take book home and complete first two pages in the unit

Tuesday: Grade first two pages in the unit in class, take book home and complete last two pages in the unit

Wednesday: Grade last two pages of the unit in class, send book home to study for the Pretest and Test

Thursday: Pretest

Friday: Test

(Some days we might do some pages during class, but you will always know what pages are due when they are written in the assignment book.)

**Handwriting:** Second grade is the last opportunity for students to master print properly. Correct letter formation, pencil grip, and paper position are essential to cursive writing, which will be introduced in third grade. Please don't encourage your child to try cursive writing now. The best way to prepare for cursive writing in third grade is to print carefully and correctly in second. There is a handwriting book the children use to practice these skills.

**Listening and Speaking:** Second graders continue to work on listening comprehension, following directions, and speaking clearly. There will be different opportunities for the children to get up in front of the class to practice presentation skills. This will happen for science reports, Speech Contest, and when they are "Matey of the Week."

**Social Studies:** Our second grade social studies text is entitled Reflections by Harcourt School Publishers. The curriculum covers family, community, our government, and basic geography skills (compass directions, using a map, the United States, and the continents.)

**Science:** Mrs. Chris Tenhoff will be teaching Science this year on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Please see the attached sheet, which explains what the students will be learning in Science.

**Physical Education:** On Monday and Tuesday, Mrs. Weinman teaches motor skills for 30 minutes. We have 30 minutes of folk dancing with Miss Washburn on Wednesday and 30 minutes of P.E. with Mrs. Delahunty on Wednesday too. Girls must wear shorts under their skirts on all of these days. Please send a note if your child needs to be excused from any of these activities.

**Computer Education:** Tiffany Proehl teaches computer class for 30 minutes on Wednesday morning. The Technology Program Guidelines are in this packet.

**Art and Music:** Mrs. Ciment comes in to teach art on Monday mornings every alternative week for one hour. Mrs. Murphy will teach art every alternative week on Tuesday afternoon for one hour. Mr. McQueen teaches 30 minutes of music every Tuesday and Friday. He introduces the recorder during the second semester.

**Thematic Units:**

Along with the basic 2<sup>nd</sup> grade curriculum, the children will have the opportunity to explore and learn about a variety of interesting topics through a thematic approach. Listed below is a timeline of thematic units we will be studying each month. (It may be subject to change, but parents will be informed of what the students are learning in class.)

Aug./Sept. - Me, Family, and Community

October - Mysteries and Halloween

November - Election and Thanksgiving

December - Christmas Around the World

January- Space

February- Famous People

March/April - Animals and their Habitats

May/June - Bugs, Blooms, and Butterflies

