

## Grade 2 Pedagogical Overview

While in Grade One a mood of wholeness develops in the children, in Grade Two this mood can differentiate into contrasts, with a deeply reverential mood on the one hand, and a temptation for mischief on the other. Throughout this year, the children develop greater interest in the unique qualities of one another and become curious about individual differences. To meet this growing social awareness, teachers introduce stories where contrasting human qualities are portrayed. Wonder tales and legends of Saints from around the world show lofty striving and highlight noble human qualities, while animal fables and trickster tales satisfy the child's interest in mischief. While the morals of these tales are never explicitly stated, the students derive direction and form from the images they are given.

In Language Arts, reading and writing instruction are taught through the oral presentation of stories and verses that the students learn. Children practice reading from the written material they have copied into their books. Phonics instruction is intensified, and the students use both whole language and phonetic approaches. Students progress from initially reading their own writing to the reading of early reader books. Lower case writing is introduced. Science is interwoven in the language arts program with the study of animal fables; seasonal poetry and songs; nature walks and gardening; and the observation, care, and study of animals and insects.

In Mathematics, the students are introduced to the multiplication tables through rhythmical movement and recitation. Games and other movement activities serve to strengthen the child's memory and deepen his/her experience of number. Place value to the hundreds is strengthened by computation and mental arithmetic. Students learn to solve math problems by borrowing and regrouping. Through mental math and written computation, students exercise the four basic mathematical processes extensively.

Although there is an increased focus on the fundamentals of arithmetic and language arts in Grade Two, the students also develop a wide range of skills in gross and fine motor movements such as jump rope, knitting, and flute playing. They also paint, sculpt with beeswax, and draw extensively. The children's thinking is thus balanced and reinforced by their experiences in physical and artistic activity.

### Language Arts:

- Fables, legends, and hero stories
- Lower case letters
- Alliterative verses, tongue twisters, seasonal songs
- Introduction to punctuation, grammar, and phonics

### Mathematics:

- Reading, writing, and ordering numbers to 1000
- Place value
- Regrouping
- Column arithmetic
- Number patterns
- Multiplication tables
- Mental arithmetic

**Nature Studies:**

- Seasonal stories and songs,
- Recitation of poems about nature
- Nature walks

**Artistic Work:**

- Form Drawing
- Watercolor painting
- Drawing
- Beeswax modeling

**Specialty Subjects:**

- Eurythmy
- Games
- Handwork
- Music
- Spanish

## English and Language Arts

Grade 2 builds upon the "language experience" foundation laid in first grade. Guided by the teacher, the class composes abbreviated stories from the folktales, saint stories, and fables they study over the course of the year. Students practice correct penmanship, simple grammar, and punctuation. The emphasis on phonics is intensified and the children learn how to apply encoding and decoding strategies. The students are read to from a variety of classical literature such as *The King of Ireland's Son*, *Stuart Little*, and *Wind in the Willows*. The class performs a play, derived from saint stories or animal fables with singing, choral speaking, and some individual parts. All second grade students participate in an assessment process involving fine and gross motor skill development, memory, basic reading, and math skills.

### Writing

Writing in Grade Two continues to be developed around stories presented by the teacher. Students help to create written texts from stories they hear, and then copy this work from the board into their books. Students learn lower case print lettering and begin to incorporate simple punctuation throughout their writing.

At the completion of Grade Two, students should be able to:

- Draw more complicated form drawings involving straight and curved lines
- Draw symmetrical patterns
- Form upper and lower case print letters
- Accurately copy text from the board with proper spelling and punctuation
- Organize written work on a page
- Spell simple sight words, including common 3-letter words

## Reading

Reading instruction continues with the oral presentation of stories and verses that the children use to make their own readers. A stronger emphasis is given in the second year to encoding and decoding strategies. Animal fables, legends, saint and hero stories from around the world help strengthen moral awareness.

At the completion of Grade Two, students should be able to:

- Respond orally to what has been heard or read
- Relate previous experiences to what is heard or said
- Restate ideas from a story in their own words
- Change beginning, middle, and ending sounds of words to make new words
- Use conventions of print (capitals and periods) to help oral reading
- Self-correct when reading aloud to create meaning
- Read familiar texts along with a group

## Speaking and Listening

The attention span of the students continues to be strengthened, as stories, verses, and games become more complicated. Clear articulation and active engagement during group recitation and singing is encouraged. Students are expected to be respectful listeners when others are speaking.

At the completion of Grade Two, students should be able to:

- Speak with clear articulation
- Use increasingly descriptive oral language
- Ask questions to strengthen understanding
- Respond to the questions of others
- Participate in choral reading of rhymes, songs, poems, and stories
- Retell stories in logical order
- Create oral stories to tell others
- Listen respectfully when others are speaking
- Follow simple instructions involving two or three steps

## **Mathematics**

Second grade builds upon the foundation laid in first grade and continues to draw its foundation from a multi-sensory approach that enlivens the subject and instills in the students a joyful approach to basic arithmetic. Much of what the children were introduced to in first grade can now be practiced and worked with more deeply. The major step taken in second grade is place value. Second graders become familiar with place value to the hundreds place and learn how to solve written two-digit addition and subtraction problems using regrouping. The children learn the 2,3,4,5, and 10 multiplication tables by heart and are taught to solve mentally, or on paper, simple multiplication or division facts.

## Number Sense and Computation

Movement, drama, music, art, and storytelling are incorporated throughout the math program. A multi-sensory approach enlivens the subject and instills in the students a joyful approach to basic arithmetic. Rhythmic movement is used to strengthen the memory and foster enthusiasm for number patterns during every math block.

At the completion of Grade Two, students should be able to:

- Count to 1000
- Read and write 3-digit whole numbers
- Break down a 3-digit number into ones, tens, and hundreds
- Skip count number families 4,6 and 11 forwards and backwards to the 12th multiple
- Recite the 2,3,4,5, and 10 times table to the 12th multiple
- Demonstrate an understanding of regrouping in addition and subtraction
- Work with addition and subtraction math facts to 18
- Mentally solve a 2-digit addition or subtraction problem
- Solve a written 2-digit addition or subtraction problem using regrouping
- Identify even and odd numbers
- Solve mentally, or on paper, a simple multiplication or division fact from the 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 tables

## Form Drawing, Patterns, and Spatial Orientation

Form drawing patterns become more complicated in Grade Two. Students learn challenging mirrored forms as well as running forms that repeat across the page. These exercises improve spatial awareness and strengthen fine and large motor skills. In math, students continue to work with number patterns and geometric designs as they learn their multiplication tables.

At the completion of Grade Two, students should be able to:

- Describe and construct patterns that show relationships between arithmetic facts to 18
- Identify missing numbers in a pattern
- Create and solve problems using words, symbols, drawings, algorithms, or objects
- Find patterns within geometric shapes
- Recognize shapes in different orientations to one another (symmetry and congruence) through form drawing
- Create mirrored form drawings that are balanced and symmetrical
- Use visual cues and movement experiences to draw complicated running forms
- Draw and understand symmetrical patterns

## **Social Studies and Science**

In the early grades, the social studies and science curriculum lays a rich foundation for the more explicit history and science instruction provided in the middle and upper grades.

### Social Studies

In Grade Two, as the children are building a sense of their own individuality within the group, they hear tales of generous and saintly people from around the world and throughout history. These noble tales are contrasted with animal stories about tricksters and mischief-makers. Through the stories, students expand their appreciation for others and deepen their awareness of the diverse physical, cultural, and religious landscapes of our world. While emphasis remains on cooperation and group activities, students are occasionally asked to work in groups and independently.

During this year, the students also participate in a Social Inclusion program with the middle school students. These sessions provide weekly opportunities for discussion and reflection on topics such as inclusivity, kindness, flexibility, and respect for others. Work with these topics continues to deepen as the children progress through the grades, with the intention of strengthening capacities for empathy, courage, and strong moral judgment as the children grow.

### Science and Nature Studies

In second grade, children begin to notice the diversity in their overall environment, and they learn to recognize the particular qualities of various elements in the natural world. In science, students continue to develop awareness and appreciation for the natural world through seasonal stories, poems, and songs. Nature stories explore natural laws in an accurate but imaginative way. Possible themes may include: metamorphosis of a caterpillar to butterfly, plant growth from seed to flower, weather patterns, and the effect of the changing seasons on the natural world. Annual festivals mark the rhythms of the year and bring appreciation for the world around us. Through artistic activities and explorative outside play, students are able to engage in creative experiences with the elements, including wind, sand, water, and soil. These hands-on, practical experiences are the building blocks for future study of zoology, botany, physics, chemistry, and earth sciences in the years to come.

Fables and saints' stories describe how human beings are linked to the kingdoms of nature. The figure of St. Francis, in particular, with his reverence and humility towards all created things, provides a moral foundation for the children's relationship to nature. Annual festivals mark the rhythms of the year and bring appreciation for the world around us. Through artistic activities and explorative outside play, students are able to engage in creative experiences with the elements, including wind, sand, water, and soil. These hands-on, practical experiences are the building blocks for future study of zoology, botany, physics, chemistry, and earth sciences in the years to come.

At the completion of Grade Two, students should be able to:

- Retell or act out fables and saint stories.
- Relate appropriate activities and festivals for each season.
- Recite poems, rhymes and songs related to nature.
- Describe how the leaves of trees change over the year.
- Describe or present a favorite animal, plant or crystal.
- Demonstrate a growing appreciation for the unique qualities of the mineral, plant, and animal kingdom.
- Demonstrate a growing awareness of seasonal effects on human, plant and animal life.
- Describe basic geographical terminology such as mountains, islands, volcanoes, rivers, streams, etc.
- Demonstrate a growing awareness of composting and recycling methods.

