

Williamson Elementary School

Second Grade

Active Learning In A Caring and Respectful Environment



Welcome to Second Grade!

We would like to share some information about second grade. You play an important role in your child's education and by working together; we can provide an optimum learning experience for your child. If throughout the year, you should have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher.

Second Grade Teachers:

Mrs. L. Miller

Mrs. Monachino (2nd & 3rd)

Mrs. Newmyer

Mr. Parker

Mrs. Sharp

Mrs. Sprout (2nd & 3rd)



Special Area Teachers:

Art: Mrs. Sheridan

Gym: Mr. Minier / Mr. Schoonerman

Library: Mrs. TenEyck

Music: Mrs. Byron / Mrs. Hunn

Our mission is to provide an effective high quality learning experience every day, for every student, with the goal of preparing students to be successful at each level and to be contributing members of society.

Reading:

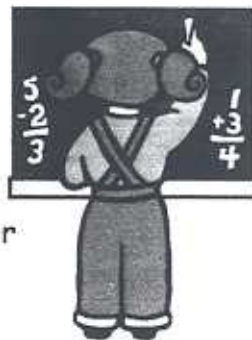
In second grade your child will be reading and responding to a wide variety of children's literature. Phonetic and comprehension skills will be based on the second grade Scott Foresman Reading Series. Reading instruction is provided whole group, in small groups and individually.

A key component of the reading instruction is guided reading. Working in a small group, students are reading and responding to literature at their instructional level. Time to read independently for practice and pleasure is also an important part of the overall reading program.

You can be a great support to your child by providing him/her with a wide variety of books at his/her reading level. Please continue reading to your child - it is a wonderful way to spend time together!

Math:

Our math program is called "Investigations in Number, Data and Space". The main emphasis of this program is to teach children to think mathematically. Investigations have been carefully designed to help students develop number sense, visualize and describe geometric relations, and collect, organize, classify and represent data. Students will work together on mathematical investigations to devise their own strategies and share their thinking. To enhance their understanding of mathematical concepts, they will use a variety of manipulatives and appropriate technology.



Science / Health:

The basis of our science program is the CIMS (Comprehensive Instructional Management System) curriculum. The three second grade modules are measurement, interactions (matter and types of energy), and life cycles (plant and animal). In addition to the CIMS program, a unit on astronomy will coincide with Star Lab. Other topics covered throughout the year include fire safety, personal safety, and drug and alcohol awareness.

Writing:

Students will be encouraged to express their experiences and thoughts on a daily basis through personal journals, responses to literature, integrated curriculum activities and writing workshop. During writing workshop, the students will be following the writing process that all good writers use. This process may include brainstorming, writing a first draft, revising, editing, and publishing. An important part of the writing process is conferencing. Conferencing occurs throughout the process and is done with an adult or another student. Each child will publish at least one book this year.

You can help by encouraging your child to write at home regularly. Writing letters to relatives or friends and keeping a journal or diary are great ways to practice writing skills.

Social Studies:



Community is the focus of the second grade social studies curriculum.

Students will be learning about Williamson and three types of communities: urban, rural and suburban. Related topics include: goods and services, wants and needs, community workers, and laws. The students will continue to develop and use map skills. Other topics will include holiday and patriotic celebrations.

Learning will be facilitated through literature, writing, and hands-on activities whenever possible.

The students will be reading and discussing *Scholastic News* to address social and science issues, as well as current events.

Spelling:

At the beginning of second grade, students will be encouraged to use inventive spelling (the sounds children hear in words) to assist in the writing process. As the year progresses, it is expected students will gradually move away from inventive spelling and use more conventional spelling in their writing. Throughout the year, the students will be receiving formal spelling instruction of words frequently used in print.

Handwriting:

Instruction will be in the correct formation of upper and lower case letters. Emphasis will be on starting points, spacing, and sizing. Attached is a guide showing correct letter formation.



Assessment:

Throughout the school year a variety of student work will come home. Students are encouraged to do their best and to learn from a mistake. To document progress, samples of student work will be kept in a portfolio at school to be shared at conference time.

In addition to classroom testing, comprehensive assessments in math and language arts (reading, writing, and listening) will be administered in the May. The results will be shared in the year-end report card.

Academic Intervention Services:

Academic Intervention Services (A.I.S.) is additional instruction and/or support services which supplement the instruction provided to your child in the general curriculum. This service is provided to those students identified as at risk of not meeting grade level learning standards. Each parent will be notified if their child has been recommended to receive this additional support service.

Family Vacation Policy:

Regular school attendance is directly linked to student achievement. Whenever possible, please plan your family vacations for the summer break or to coincide with the school calendar. If a vacation is planned during the school year, your student's teacher will provide your child with some generalized writing and reading assignments. It is not feasible for child to complete a week or more of class work when they have missed the lesson and classroom discussion. Please inform your child's teacher of any scheduled absences from school with as much advanced notice as possible.



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