

A Quick Reference Guide to Second Grade at Hopewell Area School District Elementary Schools



Welcome to Second Grade!

Second graders are natural explorers. They are still learning basic skills in language and math, but are beginning to apply those skills to their world. They are able to take on responsibilities such as weekly homework. Second graders are, however, still little children who love to read and have their hundreds of questions answered. We look forward to working with you during this very important year in your child's life.

Language Arts

The Hopewell Area School District has adopted Harcourt Trophies as the reading/language arts program for our Kindergarten through Grade 4 students. This language arts program incorporates reading, writing, spelling and grammar, and is comprised of all of the essential learning tools that students need to become literate adults. In Grades K-2, as the students learn to read, the emphasis is on phonemic awareness, phonics, listening skills, and strategies that teach learning to read. There is an emphasis on increasing vocabulary through the primary grades and bridging phonics and comprehension. The students are encouraged to express their ideas through words and pictures as they venture into the new world of reading.

Everyday Mathematics

The philosophy of the Everyday Math program is to enable children in elementary grades to learn more mathematical content and become lifelong mathematical thinkers. The key components of the Everyday Math program are to solve problems using everyday situations, develop concepts through hands-on explorations and activities, practice through games, and provide ongoing cumulative review of skills previously taught. In second grade, the focus is on basic operations, measurement in inches and centimeters, place value, telling time to the nearest hour and half-hour, understanding coin and bill values, calculating the value of bill and coin combinations, solving number stories, writing and ordering numbers, basic geometry, fractions, beginning multiplication facts, and graphing.

Science

The Second Grade Science curriculum encompasses life, earth, and physical science. Students will be learning Science through the inquiry method. They will study the life cycle of certain plants and animals, physical and chemical changes, as well as balance and motion through investigations done using a Foss Science Kit.

Social Studies

Second graders leave the shelter of the nest and start to explore the dynamics of a complex society. They explore neighborhoods and delve into citizenship, learning how people work together and attain their needs and wants. Second graders also begin to attach meaning to what happened in the past and its effect on us today. They start to learn that holidays happen for a reason. Map skills help build on a program that demonstrates to the second grader that he or she is only a small component in a vast and changing world.

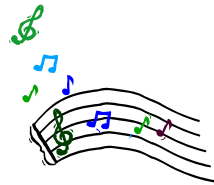


Homework Policy

Second graders are asked to complete homework assignments every evening. The homework should be approximately 20-30 minutes in duration. A homework sheet is sent home daily. **It is important to read this sheet everyday** because information for the parents is also included on it. The homework centers around reading an assigned story, practicing spelling words, and continued practice in math. If additional practice is needed for a particular skill, this work may also be sent home for completion.

Music

The students in second grade sing songs, enjoy listening selections, and create expressive quality of music by moving, playing instruments, and creativity. They learn to read musical notation in their books. The students learn the lines and spaces of the treble clef. The students sing songs related to special holidays. They demonstrate their musical talents at special performances throughout the year. The students study and develop music that can form a foundation for a lifelong interest in music.



Physical Education

Students will identify and use a variety of basic and advanced movement forms such as running, skipping, hopping, galloping, and sliding. Non-loco-motor skills consist of bending, twisting, stretching, turning, and lifting. Students learn control in travel activities, balance activities, and basic object control skills. Activities include circle games, ball skills of soccer, kickball and floor hockey, and balance skills.

Library

Children in second grade use the library each week to find books for leisure reading. They are introduced to a wide variety of alphabet, counting, shape, and color books available, and they create a class alphabet book. Children “meet” a variety of well-known authors through videos and have a chance to read many examples of the authors’ work. Caldecott Medal winners are introduced in a number of different ways in the second half of the year.



Art

In a sequential art curriculum, each activity is tied to the next so that what is learned today will be used tomorrow, and can be added to and made more significant. Students learn to identify visual elements such as lines, colors, shapes, and textures. Their art is based on imagination and personal interpretations. They acquire basic skills in using media for drawing, painting, collage, printmaking, and sculpture. Students become aware of art in everyday life through lessons on architecture, clothing, and other environmental art. Students also learn to perceive and describe the subject matter of their artwork to others.