



SECOND GRADE BENCHMARKS

Second grade is a year of immense developmental growth. The students are charged with the responsibility of becoming more self-reliant and independent. They are given the tools to become self-advocates and allies for their classmates. Practice makes perfect and the children experience many opportunities in which to hone their newfound social skills. Writing and reading are a central focus of the second grade curriculum and these skills are interwoven through the entire program. The development of number sense and problem solving skills are emphasized as the students continue to solidify and build upon the math foundation established in kindergarten and first grades. More comprehensive information about the second grade curriculum can be found in the curriculum overviews.

MATH AND ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) – Based on Common Core Standards:

- [Common Core for Parents](#)
- [Ten Things Parents Should Know About the Common Core State Standards](#)
- [Growth Mindset and Common Core](#)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

In grade two, students will build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. They will think, talk, and write about what they read in a variety of articles, books, and other texts. In their writing, students will pay more attention to organizing information, developing ideas, and supporting these ideas with facts, details, and reasons. Activities in these areas will include:

- Reading a wide range of stories and describing how a story teaches a lesson
- Describing characters in a story and how their actions contributed to events
- Reading texts about history, social studies, or science and answering questions about what they learned
- Referring to information from illustrations such as maps or pictures as well as the words in a text to support their answers
- Learning the rules of spoken and written English
- Learning and using new words, including words related to specific subjects (such as science words)
- Participating in class discussions by listening, asking questions, sharing ideas, and building on the ideas of others
- Giving a class presentation on a topic or telling a story using relevant facts and details and speaking clearly
- Writing stories with dialogue and descriptions of character's actions, thoughts, and feelings
- Gathering information from books, articles, and online sources to build understanding of a topic
- Writing research or opinion papers over extended periods of time

MATH

In grade two, students will extend their understanding of place value to the hundreds place. They will use this place value understanding to solve word problems, including those involving length and other units of measure. Students will continue to work on their addition and subtraction skills, quickly and accurately adding and subtracting numbers up through 20 and also working with numbers up through 100. They will also build a foundation for understanding fractions by working with shapes and geometry. Activities in these areas will include:

- Quickly and accurately adding numbers together that total up to 20 or less or subtracting from numbers up through 20
- Solving one- or two-step word problems by adding or subtracting numbers up through 100
- Understanding what the different digits mean in a three-digit number
- Adding and subtracting three digit numbers
- Measuring lengths of objects in standard units such as inches and centimeters
- Solving addition and subtraction word problems involving length
- Solving problems involving money
- Breaking up a rectangle into same-size squares
- Dividing circles and rectangles into halves, thirds, or fourths
- Solving addition, subtraction, and comparison word problems using information presented in a bar graph
- Writing equations to represent addition of equal numbers

RELIGION (as outlined by the Archdiocese of San Francisco)

Religion is one of the pillars of our whole child academic approach. Each day our students participate in prayer and religious instruction, studying the traditions and practices of the Catholic faith. Religion classes are a welcome time in each the day for our students and teachers to reflect and connect as a community. In all grades students are encouraged to be stewards of God's creation by participating in age appropriate activities that promote social justice and action.

Second Grade Religion focuses on the preparation of our students to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

- The Profession of Faith – understanding of the Trinity, that Jesus is both human and divine, and that Jesus teaches us about God in many ways.
- The Celebration of the Christian Mystery – developing and understanding that Jesus' presence is in the Sacraments through the Sacrament of First Holy Communion
- Life in Christ – Understanding that sin is turning away from God and that God is a forgiving God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Christian Prayer – Using prayer in Sacramental and everyday life.

PRAYERS

- Ritual and Mass responses
- Simple Act of Contrition
- Christian Meditation

SCIENCE

- **Students will:**
 - identify plants and their parts understand that flowers and fruits are associated with reproduction in plants
 - describe how plants grow and change in their environments
 - identify kinds of animals and their traits

- know the physical properties of rocks and how they change understand soil and its components
- identify fossils and understand they provide evidence of the past understand how Earth's resources provide food, fuel, and building materials that humans use

NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) were developed so that students could do less memorizing and more critical thinking, make connections between the Common Core and Science, align classroom practice with scientific research all while encouraging students to apply their knowledge in an appropriate framework. Please use the link below learn more and view the standards.

- [About the NGSS Standards](#)
- [The Standards](#)
- [Why Science Matters](#)

SOCIAL STUDIES (per California State Standards)

Students in grade two explore the lives of actual people who make a difference in their everyday lives and learn the stories of extraordinary people from history whose achievements have touched them, directly or indirectly. The study of contemporary people who supply goods and services aids in understanding the complex interdependence in our free-market system.

- Students differentiate between things that happened long ago and things that happened yesterday.
- Students demonstrate map skills by describing the absolute and relative locations of people, places, and environments.
- Students explain governmental institutions and practices in the United States and other countries.
- Students understand basic economic concepts and their individual roles in the economy and demonstrate basic economic reasoning skills.
- Students understand the importance of individual action and character and explain how heroes from long ago and the recent past have made a difference in others' lives (e.g., from biographies of Abraham Lincoln, Louis Pasteur, Sitting Bull, George Washington Carver, Marie Curie, Albert Einstein, Golda Meir, Jackie Robinson, Sally Ride).