



Waldorf School of Lexington

Grade Two Curriculum Standards

Overview

Second graders live in two realms at once. They continue to live in a rich imaginative world. At the same time they are becoming increasingly, though not completely, aware of self and others. The curriculum addresses this duality with two types of stories: fables and legends of saints. Human foibles come to light as animal traits in fables. Students delight in the antics of the trickster and ponder the meaning of a story that doesn't necessarily end happily. Legends provide the picture of a human being who has mastered the temptation to indulge base instinct. The relation of these saints, both men and women, to animals is of particular interest to second graders.

With increased awareness, social issues grow more complex. This gives second graders the chance to practice self-control and problem-solving skills in resolving conflicts. Students are asked to play a supportive role in group activities, to participate with a positive attitude even when the task is challenging.

The three-part progression from story through recall to concept continues in second grade. Students participate in writing stories they have heard and copy them into books, which will be read. At the same time awareness of sound and symbol is reinforced in games and speech exercises that emphasize vowel and consonant blends and word families (phonograms). Math main lessons include work with larger numbers and an introduction to place value. Multiplication tables and number facts continue to be emphasized. Lessons in natural science and social studies include nature walks, walks into the neighborhood, and stories.

The day lengthens in second grade to include more practice, development of skills, movement, and games. Subject teachers continue to bring Spanish and German, eurythmy, games, and handwork. In music exercises students are becoming proficient at playing the pentatonic flute. Painting and drawing are an integral part of most lessons.

In second grade some students will be making their first tentative steps into reading books in print. Others will be rapidly forging their way through chapter books. Teachers will expect these differences and address them with appropriate reading material and opportunities for students to read at their own level of comfort.

During the year each second grader will undergo an evaluation of his or her development. These assessments help us to ensure continued healthy school progress.

Grade Two Skills by Subject Area

Work Habits and Attitude

In grade two, students should:

- Continue to develop social skills initiated in first grade: respect for teachers and classmates, ability to adapt the needs of the self to the needs of the class
- Contribute to the community of the class, helping others, doing classroom chores, being willing to do what is asked
- Begin to work individually and cooperatively within small groups
- Work within the large group in timely fashion
- Reinforce and encourage good manners
- Begin to work with process to resolve conflicts
- Develop listening skills and empathy

Language Arts

In grade two, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate listening, memory, and comprehension through story recall
- Use and expand vocabulary from stories
- Follow directions
- Memorize poems, songs, rhymes, rhythms, and verses learned by imitation and group recitations
- Participate in class plays
- Speak with clear articulation and connected gesture
- Recognize, write, and read upper case, lower case, and printed letters (cursive writing often introduced by the end of the year)
- Place words in appropriate spatial arrangement on the page; write with decreasing size and increasing accuracy and neatness
- Participate in composing a synopsis of a story to be copied and illustrated in the main lesson books
- Compose simple sentences, knowing that a sentence begins with a capital, ends with a period, names a subject, and tells what it does
- Take simple dictation (emerging spelling skills)
- Read self-constructed sentences, show enthusiasm for books, interpret pictures for meaning, eye tracking left to right
- Read and write simple word families (cat, rat, sat; like, bike; etc.)
- Read and write basic “sight” words (the, who, one, etc.)
- Develop working knowledge of phonics: long and short vowel sounds, diphthongs (aw, ow, ew, oy, etc.), vowel and consonant blends
- Begin reading books at a level appropriate for the student (a wide variety of ability is expected)

Math

In grade two, students should be able to:

- Recognize and write numbers 1–100
- Master counting by twos, threes, fours, fives, tens, elevens
- Begin counting by six, seven, eight, nine, and twelve forward and backward
- Write times tables ($12=4 \times 3$; $4 \times 3=12$ etc.)
- Write calculations in all four operations (move to vertical structure)
- Practice using place value
- Add and subtract up to three columns of numbers with regrouping
- Multiply two- and three-digit numbers by a one-digit multiplier
- Practice mental calculations in all four operations
- Practice situation problems presented orally (may be written)
- Count with money
- Understand time: calendar, months, days of the week
- Recognize odd and even numbers

Natural Science and Social Studies

In grade two, students should:

- Experience local environment and nature through nature walks, gardening, and nature stories
- Discuss characteristics of animals through fables
- Sharpen capacities of observation

Foreign Languages

By the end of grade two, students should:

- Know the months, seasons, and vocabulary from nature
- Know numbers up to fifty
- Know a number of songs, verses, and rhymes by heart
- Respond to simple questions about themselves
- Take a picture dictation
- Point out/name different items in their environment

Music

In grade two, students should be able to:

- Sing and play (flute) pentatonic melodies and some folksongs
- Play a melody previously sung or heard (play songs by ear)
- Begin spatial experience of high and low notes, showing pitch of notes with hands
- Increase finger dexterity on flutes
- Maintain a beat
- Master increasingly complex clapping, walking, and dancing patterns

Art

In grade two, students should be able to:

- Increase visual motor capacity with more complex form drawings, balancing symmetries (add horizontal symmetries)
- Begin cursive writing with moving line exercises (loops and curls)
- Draw simple geometric figures freehand
- Continue wet-on-wet watercolor exercises with primary and secondary colors
- Express aspects of three-dimensionality in sculpture (beeswax or clay)
- Follow guided drawings from the blackboard with increasing mastery of block crayons, begin to free render drawings from stories presented

Handwork

By the end of grade two, students should be able to:

- Purl (stockinet stitch) with confidence
- Crochet (chain stitch, single crochet) with confidence
- Create clear geometrical shapes while crocheting
- Recognize and fix minor knitting mistakes (purl vs. knit stitch)
- Count with confidence and recognize mistakes in their crochet
- Further develop dexterity in the hands to learn to work with their dominant hand

Eurythmy

Students in grade two should be able to:

- Know right from left
- Continue work begun in grade one, walking: spiral, triangle, square, curve, and straight lines; copper rod exercises
- Walk forms around classmates
- Move in mirror to each other—Cassini curve
- Move vowel gestures to music
- Explore anapest rhythm
- Clap rhythms and move them with feet
- Work in two circles, inner and outer, short dance
- Work in pairs

Physical Education

Students in grade two should be able to:

- Be comfortable exercising in small groups as well as in the whole class
- Know body geography (right, left, front, back, above, below)
- Play games that involve coordination and taking aim
- Do basic acrobatics like somersaulting, tumbling, and rolling.
- Jump rope: forward, backward, with crossovers, individually and partner
- Show good sportsmanship