



TWO'S CURRICULUM

Our multi-age 2/3 class provides students ages seven through nine with a nurturing and collaborative community where children are known and respected for their individual strengths. Students who begin the class in grade 2 spend two years with our teaching team (teacher, aides, behavior specialist, and TOSA), ensuring continuous academic and social growth.

Our thematic curriculum starts the second graders with the concept of schools, then moves into fossils, and culminates with seeds/plants/pollination. These thematic units integrate most of the elements: social studies, language arts, science, math, art, and music, and they provide a meaningful context in which students develop their skills.

OVERVIEW

Students in the second grade are ready to learn about people who make a difference in students' own lives and who have made a difference in the past. They develop their own identities as people who have a place in their communities. Students start their study of people who make a difference by studying the families and people they know. Students then learn that they too can make a difference by engaging in service-learning to improve their schools or communities. Teachers should also work collaboratively with their colleagues who teach kindergarten and grades one and three to avoid repetition. The content themes begun in kindergarten—such as understanding of and appreciation for American culture and government, geographic awareness, and (starting in grade one) economic reasoning—serve as a multigrade strand that can allow an extended and relatively in-depth course of study.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Arts is integrated into all areas of the curriculum and includes reading, writing, listening and speaking.

READING

Our goal is for children to recognize the enjoyment that reading brings and the patterns that exist within language for decoding and spelling. Children read individually, as well as to peers and teachers, and meet in small language arts groups. They express their understanding and appreciation of literature through dramatic interpretations and adaptations of stories. Through lively discussions, children make connections between characters and the plot and learn to recognize patterns of language. This process enables children to develop an appetite for independent reading and to think about literature and language patterns.

Skills

- Acquire sight words
- Begin dictionary skills
- Develop rich, descriptive, accurate vocabulary
- Decode using context
- Decode phonetic elements
- Develop independence in reading
- Read with oral fluency and expression
- Develop comprehension skills

- Respond to oral and written questions
- Discuss content and meaning
- Dramatize stories
- Syllabicate words and apply knowledge to decode
- Read independently

WRITING

Children dictate and write stories using their own resources for content and spelling. As children write, they learn that recording their experiences makes lasting impressions. In first grade, children are exposed to the steps of the writing process: writing rough drafts, conferencing with peers and teachers, and revising their work. Children are expected to use their phonetic skills within the context of inventive spelling. Writing within thematic content areas helps students to relate facts and to create longer pieces of writing.. We utilize the Handwriting Without Tears program.

Skills

Composition

- Dictate sentences and stories
- Write sentences of varying complexity
- Write sentences and stories to represent personal experience
- Apply phonetic instruction to written work
- Draft, revise, edit
- Create original poems and stories
- Use correct sequence of events
- Describe, using developing vocabulary

Conventions

- Apply knowledge of phonics and word families
- Apply spelling skills in independent writing
- Decode short, long vowel sounds
- Decode consonant blends, consonant digraphs
- Use sight words in writing
- Use inventive spelling independently
- Develop awareness of sentence structure:
 - Develop awareness of grammatical structure
 - Apply rules of capitalization and punctuation
 - Writing in complete sentences
- Penmanship: Handwriting Without Tears
 - Learn/review proper letter formation for upper and lowercase letters
 - Position letters appropriately on lines
 - Use correct pencil grip
 - Develop directionality when writing
- Recognize nouns, verbs, and adjectives

MATHEMATICS

The math program in Second is taught by grade due to developing mathematical concepts. There are times throughout the year when grades collaborate on a math project or one grade helps the other further their thinking.

In Grade Two, we employ literature and manipulatives which allow the children to 'see' and understand more complex ideas and content. Students learn and solidify mathematical processes using a variety of manipulatives further developing their understanding of numeration, place value, more complex patterns, addition and subtraction with regrouping, a beginning understanding of multiplication and division, shapes and their properties, symmetry and asymmetry, logical reasoning, measurement, money, time, and fractions. Hands-on exploration, both independently and in groups, helps students solidify and further their mathematical understanding, and enhances their ability to explain their thinking verbally and in writing.

Skills

Number

- Read numbers 0- 9,999 and write numbers 0-999
- Express value of each digit
- Sequence numbers
- Explore different base values
- Form and balance +, - equations
- Add and subtract up to 3 digits with regrouping
- Add with missing addends
- Introduce concepts of multiplication and division
- Identify and form number patterns
- Skip count by 2,5,10
- Subtract single digit numbers from double-digit numbers without regrouping
- Fact families

Logical reasoning and relationships

- Identify attributes
- Order and sequence numbers and objects
- Create original patterns
- Use a graph to make comparisons
- Use equalities and inequalities in sentences
- Guess, estimate, and count
- Recognize odd and even numbers
- Understand fractions as part of a whole
- Solve literature-based problems
- Choose appropriate operation to solve word problems
- Use language of math to describe symbols and operations

Measurement

- Money: Write amounts of money, add, subtract, and make change from a dollar
- Time: Tell time to five-minute intervals using analog and digital clocks
- Calendar: Understand days, months, date, and seasons
- Linear: Measure to nearest inch, foot, yard
- Volume: Measure 1/4 cup, 1/2 cup, 1 cup, tsp., tbsp.

Geometry

- Understand symmetry, asymmetry
- Construct designs using pattern blocks
- Properties of triangles, rectangles, squares, and hexagons
- Find the perimeter of a shape
- Explore the concept of conservation of space

ART

One/Two art is a sequential program integrating the life of a student and thematic studies with an in-depth study of studio art. Projects rotate according to the classroom theme for the year.

Shapes, Marks and Lines

- Animal drawings and paintings
- Drawing imaginary objects
- Sequential drawings that tell a story
- Capture characteristics of objects found in nature
- Create Large-scale collages
- Paint from observation
- Capture facial expressions in a series of drawings
- Draw from natural and man-made subject matter (perspective)

Color

- Review of color mixing with primary and secondary colors plus black and white
- Symbolic use of color in facial expression drawings
- Capture observed color in drawings and paintings of observational subject matter
- Learn to read the color wheel
- Blending dark and light variations of color in paint exploration
- Blending colors in the painting of landscapes and seascapes

Texture and Pattern

- Paper relief faces
- Multi-media creature collage
- Surface textures in clay constructions
- Etching into Styrofoam in a print-making process
- Exploring pattern possibilities through paper weaving
- Exploring animal patterns in mobile construction