

GRADE TWO CURRICULUM GUIDE



This booklet contains an outline of the instructional goals in each curricular area for second grade students at St. Joseph School. The topics are covered in a sequence that is responsive to the individual class of students. Overall, the philosophy of St. Joseph School emphasizes that learning is integrated, experiential, value-based and a foundation for continued and lifelong learning. Learning is designed to promote the spiritual, intellectual, social, physical and emotional growth of each unique child.

RELIGION

In second grade, students continue their study of the sacraments of initiation in preparation for the reception of Reconciliation and First Communion. An understanding of good and bad choices and the resulting consequences is promoted by consistent reference to individual behavior, characters in stories and real life occurrences.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the second grade Religion. Students will be able to:

- Comprehend the religious beliefs and traditions of the Catholic faith at a deeper level
- Recognize the seven sacraments as celebrations of God's love
- Understand that the Holy Spirit will help them live as Christians
- Know that God gives them the freedom to make caring or selfish choices
- Distinguish between accidents, mistakes and sins
- Understand and integrate the process of reconciliation into their daily lives
- Learn how to make an examination of conscience
- Share Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments
- Identify the parts of the Mass and describe the central focus and action in each part
- Appreciate the Eucharistic Prayer as a special time during Mass to thank God
- Understand that Jesus, the Bread of Life, satisfies their hungers in Communion
- Comprehend the value of sacramental Reconciliation in strengthening their relationship with God and their neighbors

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- Learn and respond with appropriate prayers and gestures in each part of the Mass
- Learn the sacraments of initiation and the characteristics of each sacrament

Text: [This is Our Faith](#), Silver Burdett Ginn, 1998.

LANGUAGE ARTS/LITERATURE

Second grade language arts emphasize the structure and components of sentences. Cursive handwriting is introduced using upper and lower case letters. Reading provides an opportunity for students to experience the world around them. In addition, reading is the springboard for developing and fostering imagination. Literal and inferential comprehension skills are reviewed and built upon, while the elements of literature and skills for writing are being developed.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the second grade Language Arts/Literature program. Students will be able to:

- Use their knowledge of letter-sound features to construct meaning
- Use consonant sounds to identify new words
- Use short and long vowel sounds to identify new words
- Infer word meanings from context clues
- Use knowledge of figurative language to increase their understanding of text
- Use story clues to draw conclusions
- Use strategies to improve understanding as they read
- Distinguish reality from fantasy in fiction
- Identify the narrator or point of view of a story
- Read age-appropriate material aloud with fluency and accuracy
- Locate main ideas and important details in a story
- Classify and categorize important ideas from the reading
- Make inferences within and beyond text to construct meaning

- Determine an author's purpose as they construct their own meaning
- Use tables, graphs and charts to construct meaning
- Draw conclusions about characters and events
- Classify and categorize important ideas from reading
- Identify the setting and main characters in a story
- Discuss how cultural practices and values are revealed in folk tales
- Select books by familiar authors and about familiar themes for outside reading
- Discuss how people share experiences and traditions
- Relate the stories they read to their own personal lives
- Paraphrase important ideas from the text
- Listen attentively to a speaker
- Make accurate predictions about story events based on context clues
- Follow oral directions of three and four steps accurately
- Present book reports, both oral and written
- Participate in discussions around a common topic in a respectful and cooperative manner
- Locate information using a variety of resources, such as encyclopedias, biographies and web sites
- Use their knowledge of book parts to locate information
- Cite book title and author when writing a book report
- Use the dictionary to learn and clarify the meanings of new words
- Use web sites to gather information
- Write down at least eight facts on one topic found in non-fiction materials, then subsequently organize these facts into subtopics, resulting in a final, edited research report

Text: Literature Work: A Collection of Readings, Silver
Burdett Ginn, 1997
Everyday Spelling, Scott Foresman Addison Wesley,
1998
D'Nealian Handwriting, Scott Foresman, 1993
Modern Curriculum Press Phonics, 1995
Write Away, Write Source, 1996
Voyages in English, Grade 2, Loyola Press, 1999

MATHEMATICS

Second grade math reviews addition and subtraction facts and encourages mastery of those facts. Emphasis will be placed on adding and subtracting money values. Students will continue their understanding of place value, problem solving, measurement, geometry, fractions and telling time.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the second grade Math program. Students will be able to:

Interpretation of Data

- Skip count by 2s, 5s, 10s
- Count and compare numbers in sets using “more than, less than, and equal to”
- Understand the difference between odd and even numbers
- Tally, create and analyze bar graphs and pictographs
- Solve problems by collecting, organizing and using data

Addition and Subtraction

- Explore fact families with sums through 18
- Use addition facts to check answers to subtraction facts
- Use fact families to find missing addends
- Apply an addition or subtraction rule to a group of numbers
- Add and subtract mentally
- Add and subtract with or without regrouping
- Add and subtract two digit numbers with or without regrouping
- Add and subtract three digit numbers with or without regrouping

Problem Solving

- Write a number sentence
- Organize and use data from a graph to predict future results
- Make predictions
- Use a computation method
- Use logical reasoning and communicate the steps of their logic

Money and Time

- Explore counting coin combinations including pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and half dollars
- Identify the fewest coin combinations needed to buy items
- Add money
- Solve problems by making change in amounts through five cents
- Estimate time
- Tell time to the hour, to five minutes, to the half hour, and to the quarter hour
- Write time values, represented as hour:minute

Measurement

- Explore nonstandard units
- Measure items in inches, feet and yards
- Understand centimeters and meters
- Add to find the perimeter in inches, feet, and yards
- Calculate an area in square units
- Identify equivalent measures between cups, pints and quarts

Geometry and Fractions

- Understand characteristics of various solid and plane figures
- Identify congruent shapes
- Understand slides, flips and turns
- Identify and create symmetrical shapes
- Identify parts of a whole as being equal or unequal parts
- Estimate parts of a whole
- Estimate the size value of fractional parts of objects

Text: McGraw-Hill Math, 2002

SOCIAL STUDIES

The role of students in various environments – home, school and larger social communities is emphasized in second grade. The concept of interdependence of people within a community is expanding as students study community helpers, jobs and services. Map and globe skills continue to be taught along with graphs, tables and charts.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the second grade Social Studies program:

- Define rules and laws as telling people what to do and what not to do
- Recognize that a group leader enables people in a group to work together
- Identify a compass rose as a drawing on a map that shows cardinal directions
- Realize that people everywhere have needs and wants
- Define goods and services
- Understand that we live on the earth that is made up of various landforms, bodies of water and other natural resources that need to be conserved
- Read a simple landform map and recognize different types of land forms
- Use a map and/or a globe to locate places
- Understand that people such as Native Americans, the English settlers, the pioneers and events such as the American Revolution are an important part of American history
- Appreciate the importance of the United States of America in the world through an understanding of historic people and places

- Identify Washington, D.C. as the capital city of the United States
- Understand the responsibilities of the President and of Congress
- Understand the role that President Abraham Lincoln played to free enslaved African Americans
- Recognize the significance of important government and historical buildings in Washington, D.C.
- Appreciate the importance of historic national monuments
- Recognize the influence a single person can have on history
- Realize that people work to earn money to pay for needs, wants, goods and services
- Explain that people use banks to save money
- Define goods as things that are made or grown and then sold
- Define services as jobs that people do for others
- Recognize that a tax is money that people pay to a community for services
- Recognize that people in other countries also work for needs, wants, goods and services
- Compare and contrast similarities and differences among various neighborhoods
- Describe how a neighborhood changes over time
- Explain that communities may vary in size and structure
- Explain the importance of transportation in linking communities
- Locate places in a neighborhood on a map
- Trace a route on a map
- Read and interpret a time line
- Identify Paul Revere's contribution to the fight for American independence from Great Britain

- Identify George Washington as a Revolutionary War leader and the first president of the United States of America

Text: Neighborhoods and Communities,
MacMillan/McGraw Hill, 1995

SCIENCE

The second grade science curriculum expands the students' knowledge of concepts and emphasizes investigation skills. The students are involved in experimental projects as each topic is covered, thus building the skills of observation, description, classification, comparison and prediction. The second grade science program incorporates several strands, including life science, physical science, earth science and human health.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the second grade Science program:

Life Science

- Compare objects from the schoolyard environment and woodland environment
- Classify objects into two groups; living and once-living, and nonliving
- Identify plants and animals found in different habitats
- Describe what living things need to survive
- Identify the main parts of a green plant
- Explain the functions of roots, stems, and leaves
- Describe how an animal uses living and nonliving resources to make a home for itself and its young
- Generalize that body parts help animals to survive in their environments
- Demonstrate how some animals can change their environment to better meet their needs
- Describe how people and natural forces change the environment
- Describe a desert environment and identify some plants and animals that live there

- Compare and contrast the physical features of living things from different environments

Physical Science

- Identify various sources of light
- Classify sources of light as natural or made by people
- Understand that objects and their characteristics cannot be seen without a light source illuminating those objects
- Observe that a light source gives off both heat and light
- Understand that light travels in a straight line
- Classify objects according to how well light can pass through them – transparent, translucent, or opaque
- Identify an object by the shadow that is cast when the object is placed in a beam of light
- Predict where shadows would be at different times of the day
- Produce and identify the colors of the spectrum
- Group solid objects on the basis of properties, such as size, shape, color, and texture
- Group liquids on the basis of properties, such as color and texture
- Classify objects and substances as a solid, a liquid, or a gas
- Understand that solids, liquids, and gases occupy space
- Understand the three states of matter and how a substance can change from one state to another

Earth Science

- Compare the characteristics of different types of dinosaurs
- Use models of dinosaurs to compare their sizes and shapes
- Compare the sizes of dinosaurs to a child's size
- Compare fossil imprints with fossil remains
- Conclude that fossil imprints are traces of plants or animals
- Infer the size of an animal from its remains
- Compare dinosaurs with living animals
- Conclude that some animals alive today may be in danger of becoming extinct

The Human Body

- Examine drawings or pictures of how bacteria and viruses look under a microscope
- Understand that each type of bacteria or virus causes a different sickness
- Conclude that mucous membranes help protect the human body from invasion by bacteria and viruses
- Observe ways in which germs can be spread
- Develop a plan to help prevent the spread of disease by bacteria or viruses
- Show examples of how an illness or injury might have been prevented
- Distinguish healthful activities from harmful ones

Text: McGraw-Hill Science, 2002

FOREIGN LANGUAGE - SPANISH

The foreign language program continues in second grade to develop and build on language skills learned in previous grades. The Spanish program is flexible to adjust to different levels of competency among students. Catholic prayers and traditions are incorporated in keeping with the religious nature of the school.

The program goals are to:

- Develop and increase listening abilities
- Expand word recognition skills
- Improve spoken language skill
- Start basic sentence formation

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the second grade Spanish program:

- State his/her name to another person
- Use greetings and farewells
- Identify 6 classroom objects in Spanish
- Identify basic shapes using Spanish vocabulary
- Identify 10 colors
- Know numbers 0 to 100
- Identify 10 fruits
- State likes and dislikes (me gusta) with learned vocabulary
- Recognize domestic animals and zoo animals
- Create short sentences which include animals, fruits and color
- Learn three Spanish songs
- Label various parts of the body in Spanish
- Recognize immediate family members

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- Create a family tree
- State simple questions (what is it?)
- Recognize months and days of the week
- Understand some Hispanic traditions and holidays
- Express weather expressions with months
- Recite the Spanish alphabet
- Make the Sign of the Cross
- Recite the Hail Mary
- Start the Pledge of Allegiance in Spanish
- Express something about themselves in Spanish
- Recognize basic language patterns, e.g. forms of address, questions and case
- Respond appropriately to simple commands
- Respond to and ask simple questions with prompts
- Imitate pronunciation, intonation and inflection including sounds unique to Spanish
- Predict meaning of key words in a simple story, poem or song
- Infer meaning of some cognates from context
- Copy/write words, phrases and simple sentences

FINE ARTS - MUSIC

In second grade music class the students continue to discover and learn the basic principles of music. Concepts are put into practice through the use of rhythm instruments and pitched bells. Singing becomes more expressive and concepts of diction and style are introduced.

Second grade students are involved, on many levels, in two music programs that are presented to school families and the community. The goal of these programs is to encourage students to share their talents in a unified group endeavor that displays pride in our school, personal pride and magnifies the values of our Christian community.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the second grade Music program.

- Rhythm and melody
- Style in music
- Accompaniment
- Musical forms
- Verse refrain
- Music for liturgical celebrations
- Note values
- Playing rhythm instruments
- Steps and leaps
- Multi-cultural music
- Patterns in music
- Music as part of our culture
- Composers

Text: The Music Connection, Silver Burdett Ginn, 1998

FINE ARTS - ART

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the second grade Art program. Students will be able to:

- Identify elements of:
 - Primary and secondary colors
 - Types of lines - curves, straight, spiral, jagged
 - Texture in relation to objects such as clothing, furniture and vehicles
 - Space - overlapping shapes/objects and distance in space, near and far
 - Size - larger to smaller
- Identify principles of repetition and pattern
- Identify qualities of representational and abstract work
- Identify the media and the tool(s) used in a painting, drawing and construction
- Demonstrate how to use the media and tools safely when painting, drawing and constructing
 - Painting: mix primary colors to create secondary colors
 - Drawing: experiment using diagonal, vertical and horizontal lines and basic shapes to create patterns
 - Printmaking: stencil from tag board, brayer for monoprints
 - Collage/assemblage: experiment with textured paper, fabrics, and found materials
 - Fabric: use basic paper-weaving skills

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

An effective physical education curriculum incorporates many aspects of physical, emotional, social, and personal growth. The program includes the following components:

- 1) Emphasize the child as a whole person and exercise the mind as well as the body
- 2) Utilize a variety of learning strategies
- 3) Emphasize core skills, such as locomotion, throwing and catching
- 4) Emphasize the development of lifelong physical fitness
- 5) Demonstrate good sportsmanship and cooperation as fundamental core values
- 6) Emphasize participation in all sports – individual as well as team

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the second grade Physical Education program:

- Use different locomotor patterns while moving through general space
 - Skipping, running, hopping, jumping, galloping, sliding
- Chase, flee and dodge
 - Dodge stationary and moving objects
 - Chase a moving object or person
 - Flee from a moving object or person
 - Chase, flee, dodge in a game situation

- Jump and land
 - Jump up and land on two feet
 - Jump a distance from a standing start as well as while running
 - Jump rope
- Kick and dribble a ball
 - Kick a moving and stationary ball
 - Start and stop in different pathways while dribbling a ball
- Throw and catch
 - Underhand/overhand throw
 - Throw to a target
 - Throw and catch during a game situation
- Perform basic stunts and tumbling moves
 - Log roll, egg roll, forward roll
 - Balance on a tripod
- Strike and volley an object
- Move rhythmically to music of different speeds
- Use small apparatus – scooters, hoops, wands and parachute
- Establish good sportsmanship habits
 - Take turns
 - Be courteous of others
 - Encourage other teammates without negativity
 - Put forth full effort
- Develop individual physical fitness level
 - Cardiovascular endurance
 - Muscular strength
 - Flexibility
 - Demonstrate outcomes of regular and daily exercise
 - Increase exercise duration and stamina

COMPUTER

The Computer Curriculum, in a sequential and stepwise fashion from kindergarten through eighth grade, incorporates classroom strategies and student activities that promote the following core foundational skills – keyboarding and word processing. Students are encouraged to enhance individual skill levels and to continue to improve independently. Students are also encouraged to develop cooperative classroom skills of patience and mutual respect. The computer curriculum emphasizes lifetime skills of research, writing and document development.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the second grade Computer program. Students will be able to:

- Use input and output devices correctly (mouse, keyboard and printer)
- Communicate in technologically appropriate terms
- Work with others in a technological environment
- Understand the value of computers in everyday life
- Use search engines correctly
- Complete keyboarding software at a level appropriate for the student's grade and initial skill level

LIBRARY

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the second grade Library program:

- Build a solid background of information regarding terms and concepts as a prerequisite to the formal teaching of information and retrieval skills
- Understand the value of fiction and nonfiction sources
- Become familiar with special areas of literature – Caldecott, tall tales and biography

Terms and concepts reviewed and reinforced:

Author	Spine
Fiction	Title
Cover	Nonfiction
Illustrator Pages	Main Character
Illustrations	Dust Jacket
Supporting Characters	Publisher
Copyright	Copyright Date

New terms and concepts:

Biography	Autobiography
Dedication Page	Biography Collection
Title Page	Dewey Decimal System

Types of literature emphasized:

Caldecott Award	Historical
Mystery and Detective	Biography
Seasonal	American Tall Tale
Around-the-world folk tales	

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HOMEWORK

Students in second grade should continue to read for at least 30 minutes per night. In addition, written homework assignments will be required that will generally require 20 minutes to complete. Appropriate paper to be used will be provided or otherwise specified by teacher. Pencil should always be used. The student's name should appear on all assignments.

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