

SECOND GRADE
CURRICULUM

VILLA ACADEMY CURRICULUM INFORMATION

SECOND GRADE

READING

The goal for second grade is to teach the students how to *respond* to what they have read. In Kindergarten and first grade, they have been *learning to read*; in second, they begin to focus on *reading to learn*. Strategies used to teach this are looking for details; asking questions during the reading; pausing and checking for understanding; identifying the most important parts of a selection; predicting outcomes; making generalizations; and evaluating the stories. Students begin doing these tasks orally and then more to responding in writing.

Materials used at various times of the year include the Harcourt reading and language arts series, Scholastic's Guided Reading Series, Accelerated Reader and individual book titles. Methods used are whole group, small group, and individual lessons, and the material read is developmentally appropriate. Components include phonics, word identification, grammar, vocabulary, comprehension and writing.

SPELLING

Rebecca Sitton's Sourcebook is used for our spelling program. The goal is to help students become lifelong spellers, rather than just "Friday's test" spellers. Instruction includes skills in phonics, word origins, spelling rules and usage. Through everyday writing and word study, students learn to spell correctly in writing and improve reading.

WRITING

The curriculum is designed to build skills and confidence. Students write stories (both fiction and non-fiction), paragraphs, poems, journals, research reports, and letters.

The writing process is integrated throughout the curriculum. Many assignments are designed to incorporate writing into math, science, and social studies. Our writing program focuses on Six Trait Writing: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions, and the skill of presentation.

The Handwriting Without Tears program is used to teach and reinforce penmanship and legibility.

RELIGION

Students learn about the sacraments as a celebration of special times. Sacraments are signs of the loving presence of Jesus with us now. Baptism, Confirmation, Reconciliation, and Eucharist are the main sacraments studied. The Liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter are also studied, as well as Saints and Holy Days. Second grade leads one school wide prayer service or Mass during the year. Textbook: *Blest Are We* by Silver Burdett Ginn Religion.

The five themes of the program are:

- We gather as believers
- We ask God's forgiveness
- We celebrate the Word of God
- We celebrate the gift of Eucharist
- We go in Peace

MATH

Students use *Everyday Mathematics*, a program guided by standards set by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM). This program offers students a broad background in mathematics. Students are encouraged to work from, and to continue to, develop their own mathematical thinking. They focus on making sense of the situations the class investigates while practicing basic skills and facts in a meaningful context. Program highlights include partner and small group activities that promote cooperative learning, discussion, and communicating mathematically.

The program emphasizes the following concept/skill areas:

- Numeration and Order
- Operations
- Exploring Data and Chance
- Patterns, Function, and Sequences
- Geometry and Spatial Sense
- Measures and Measurement
- Reference Frames
- Algebra and Uses of Variables

SCIENCE

Endangered animals and the food web are studied in life science. Air and weather are studied in earth science. Physical science includes the study of balance and motion, using *Foss Science* kit.

Some of these topics relate to the concept of cycles. Understanding and recognizing cycles allows students to better understand and appreciate the changes they observe around them.

Science is also used as a vehicle to integrate literature, writing, and study skills.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The main theme of the Social Studies curriculum is that of community. The students learn about types of communities and how people in these communities meet their needs. The communities discussed range from the smallest family group to our global community.

Social Studies is used as a vehicle to integrate literature, writing, and study skills. Map and globe skills, as well as a unit on the cultures, resources, and geography of Kenya using the *StoryPath* Social Studies program are taught in conjunction with studying communities, as a focal point for the social studies program.

Each student has a subscription to Scholastic News Magazine.

SPECIALISTS

Second Grade students also participate in a varied schedule and see specialists in the following areas:

Art: 60 minutes — *once a week*

French: 30 minutes — *twice a week*

Library: 40 minutes — *once a week*

Music: 30 minutes — *twice a week*

PE: 30 minutes — *twice a week*

Technology: 45 minutes — *once a week*

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In second grade, locomotor and manipulative skills continue to improve, and students are interested in practicing activities that they know how to perform. Students are able to work cooperatively with a partner and in small groups, so PE continues to focus on developing good sportsmanship and teamwork.

LIBRARY

The goal of our program is to develop students who value learning and have the skills, strategies, and processes to be independent users of information. The library curriculum provides learning opportunities for students to develop skills in information literacy, literature appreciation, and responsible library behaviors.

Information Literacy and the Research Process

- Identify central and research questions
- Locate relevant materials using key words
- Identify strategies for reading non-fiction
- Gather relevant information using simple note taking systems.

Literature Appreciation and Reading for Meaning

- Read and respond to WCCPB nominees
- Identify and compare elements of story
- Summarize plot and important events
- Identify and compare attributes of folklore and identify repeating motifs
- Respond to a variety of traditional and contemporary literary genres

Library Responsibilities

- Explain proper care and use of resources
- Locate resources using search stations and classification system
- Use book selection skills

TECHNOLOGY

Once a week, Lower School students come to Villa's iMac computer lab to build their computer literacy skills and experiment with a range of programs, applications and equipment. Assigned projects undertaken in this class integrate with the students' classroom curriculum throughout the school year.

The world of the computer lab starts to widen a bit as students enter Second and Third Grade! Using the more complex components of *KidPix*, students learn to create slide shows and import graphic images. For word processing, students work with *EasyBook Deluxe* that allows them to create and print in a book format. *Kidspiration*, a visual mapping program, is introduced for organizing information in many creative ways. Using Internet research, students are directed to specific sites that are carefully chosen to be kid friendly.

MUSIC

The purpose of our music program is to expose students to a wide range of musical experiences so they may develop a foundation for lifelong appreciation of music. This is accomplished by providing students with learning experiences so they develop the skills described by the Association for the Supervision of Curriculum Development (ASCD) benchmarks while learning concepts related to the elements of music. The activities designed to provide such experiences are singing, playing Orff and other percussion instruments, moving to music, listening, and performing.

FRENCH

The French program presents language in meaningful situations and builds continuity with the development of specific themes. Students use the language to communicate and to express. By incorporating Total Physical Response (TPR) and storytelling methods, students respond with physical activity to increasingly complex teacher commands. This develops oral comprehension and facilitates language acquisition and retention.

A variety of methods are used, including a whole language method and limited immersion. The majority of class time is conducted in French.

ART

The objective of the Kindergarten through Third Grade visual arts program is to encourage artistic and aesthetic growth through teaching observation, use of a variety of art media to express and communicate, application of the creative process to solve problems, understanding and use of art elements and concepts, and the appreciation and enjoyment of the artistic process. Art history and cultural arts are also an integral part of students' art curriculum.