



Second Grade Benchmarks

Lower School Habits of Mind

- Engagement: Participates fully and collaboratively in school, community, and academic life.
- Integrity: Exhibits ethical behavior and honesty, providing service for the common good.
- Responsibility: Takes care of self, others, and the school as a learner, friend, advocate, and citizen.
- Reflection: Thinks constructively and critically, contemplating the learning and actions of self and others.
- Resilience: Demonstrates persistence while working through challenges.
- Flexibility: Questions the world from varying perspectives, adapting prior knowledge to generate new solutions.

Second Grade Reading

- Utilizes various reading strategies; asking questions, making predictions, summarizing
- Describes the overall structure of a story, including describing how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes the actions
- Describes character motivations and plot to better understand the main ideas and supporting details
- Reads and comprehends second grade fiction and informational texts
- Identifies text features (table of contents, headings) to locate information
- Identifies qualities of fiction and nonfiction
- Applies grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words
- Reads words with common suffixes and prefixes
- Reads common grade level high-frequency words by sight

Second Grade Writing

- Writes about reading, opinion pieces and informative/explanatory text
- Follows the stages of the writing process
- Listens to others' writing and offers feedback
- Writes multiple sentences on the same topic.
- Writes a variety of sentences using different parts of speech
- Correctly uses capitalization and end punctuation
- Uses more conventional spelling than inventive spelling of high frequency words
- Prints capital and lowercase letters legibly
- Writes words with common suffixes and prefixes

Second Grade Listening and Speaking

- Participates in discussions and conversations in small and large groups following expectations
- Links comments to the remarks of others
- Describes key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally
- Asks and answers questions to clarify comprehension, gather additional information or deepen understanding of a topic or issue

Second Grade Social Studies

- Identifies similarities and differences in people's habits and living patterns
- Identifies ways the environment affects how people live and work
- Recognizes how people affect their environment
- Recognizes some ways people rely on each other for goods and services
- Shows some understanding of time and how the past influences people's lives
- Demonstrates simple mapping skills to represent familiar locations (room, home, neighborhood, city)
- Demonstrates understanding as to why there are rules and laws and how government functions
- Participates in/takes responsibility for class and school jobs
- Demonstrates awareness about state and country
- Demonstrates understanding of content and key concepts in current units

Second Grade Math

- Counts by 2s, 5s, 10s and 100s within 1,000
- Understands place value to the thousands and writes in expanded form
- Adds fluently within 20
- Subtracts fluently within 20
- Represents and solves addition problems to 100
- Represents and solves subtraction problems to 100
- Represents halves, thirds and fourths in pictures and identifies the fraction name
- Recognizes and draws two and three dimensional shapes
- Measures and estimates using standard and metric units
- Reads analog clock and can tell time to the nearest five minutes
- Represents thinking with visual models, equations and words
- Mentally adds and subtracts 10 or 100 to or from numbers 100 - 900
- Solves word problems using addition and subtraction
- Makes change within one dollar
- Constructs and reads picture and bar graphs, solving problems using information from the graphs
- Demonstrates understanding of key concepts and uses language introduced when explaining mathematical thinking

Second Grade Science

- Makes hypotheses from observations and information
- Writes or draws descriptions of a sequence of steps, events or observations
- Gives reasonable explanations for conclusions
- Conducts simple experiments and follows directions using scientific tools
- Makes predictions and draws reasonable conclusions based on observed patterns
- Explores and identifies qualities of the natural world including plant life cycles and changes in the earth
- Explores and identifies properties of simple machines

Second Grade Spanish

- Uses basic greetings, farewells and expressions of courtesy
- Uses pictures and visuals to infer meaning
- Begins to respond accurately to either/or questions
- Uses previously learned vocabulary, including weather, family members, animals and feelings
- Communicates on some familiar topics using single words and basic phrases
- Demonstrates comprehension of simple sentences and/or phrases in the target language
- Begins to comprehend basic classroom directions provided in the target language

Second Grade Music

- Singing: Sings songs and simple canons using in tune singing voices
- Pitch: Responds to and demonstrates melodic contour
- Rhythm & Meter: Recognizes and performs rhythmic patterns in simple and compound meters
- Form and Design: Demonstrates understanding of musical phrases, patterns and ostinato patterns
- Playing: Performs simple patterned accompaniments, simple melodies and ostinato patterns
- Expressive Qualities: Uses expressive music qualities during performance
- Movement: Performs a variety of multicultural folk dances with enthusiasm

Second Grade Visual Art

- Color: Understands relationships between primary and secondary colors; Identifies and understands complementary, contrasting, warm and cool colors
- Observation: Sustains observation for longer periods of concentration and connects what they see with what they create
- Creating: Self directs creative process, perseveres and explores solutions to art problems
- Expression: Discusses thoughts, feelings and experiences expressed in artwork; Begins to discuss and reflect with peers about creative process
- Identifies and communicates work of art that connects to personal life and community

- Tools and media: Explores use of tools and media in a variety of ways to create works of art; Uses art vocabulary to describe creative process; Begins to demonstrate safe and appropriate uses for art tools

Second Grade Physical Education

- Awareness of teammates during games
- Balance
- Passing to a moving target: leading passes
- Dribbling with dominant and nondominant sides
- Throw a ball focused on accuracy
- Work with teammates during strategy games - communication, listening, express opinions
- Increased understanding of a Warm-up/Stretch
- Demonstrates respect for individual differences in physical abilities
- Participation/Effort in Sports Games
- Participation/Effort in Fitness
- Sportsmanship (Winning/Losing)
- Overall Attitude