

Investigating the Ever-changing World

Curriculum Guide

Second Grade

the **LernerSchool**
Learning for Life

Second Graders spend their year learning about changes in the natural world and in their own lives. Students begin studying history and engage with concepts of change over time; they observe the life cycles of butterflies and chicks; and they experiment with the changing states of matter, form and function, change, causation, and connections.

Judaic Studies and Jewish values are interwoven throughout the curricular strands as the Second Graders make connections between themselves and the wider world around them.

LITERACY

Second Graders engage with literacy concepts and skills as they find and share information, solve problems, and explore new places and ideas. Cause and effect, character traits, comparisons and connections, reading for meaning, and identifying problems and their resolution are just a few of the literacy elements highlighted in the Second Grade. At the end of the year, students participate in Literature Circles, in which they read books chosen by ability level and interest in a small group and take responsibility for leading and participating in literature discussions. Students will also study spelling patterns, irregular vowel pairs, decoding strategies, and parts of speech.

Second Grade students learn that writing can share information, ideas, and opinions, and write personal narratives, fiction, and poetry. Students study sentence structure and learn to write in paragraph format. The Writer's Workshop model allows students to express themselves while learning about character development, peer editing, genre, and writing mechanics such as grammar, formatting, and proofreading. Spelling patterns and self-editing skills are taught through the Sitton Spelling program, which focuses on "spelling for writing" rather than word-list memorization.

Students are assessed on an ongoing basis to provide for their individual instructional needs. Through a variety of activities and settings, your child will:

- Use ideas such as illustrations, titles, topic sentences, key words and foreshadowing to make and confirm/reject predictions
- Retell and interpret narrative elements
- Make inferences
- Interpret information from diagrams, charts, and maps
- Identify features of non-fiction books including table of contents, index, chapters, headings, graphs, charts, glossary, bold face, captions, etc.
- Decode words by applying knowledge of common spelling patterns
- Apply knowledge of sources of information (meaning, language, graphophonics) to read new text silently and independently
- Read expository materials for answers to specific questions
- Identify nouns, verbs and adjectives in given text
- Identify and use common antonyms or synonyms

Resources we use include, but are not limited to:

- Units of Study for Primary Writing (Lucy Calkins Writer's Workshop)
- Units of Study for Primary Reading (Lucy Calkins Reader's Workshop)
- Handwriting Without Tears: Printing Power
- Sitton Spelling
- Theme related fiction and non-fiction books

MATH

In Second Grade, the Everyday Mathematics Program is designed to support and extend conceptual understanding, and focuses on flexible thinking, number sense, and creative problem solving. Math concepts are integrated with units of study across the curriculum. For example, students work with Venn diagrams and other classification tools during the "Then and Now" unit in Social Studies and utilize measurement and estimation skills in their study of Matter and Energy. Our students utilize the IXL math practice website to enhance their math skills and follow individualized programs that track and reward their progress. Mastery of basic facts is fostered through Rocketship Math, a fun and engaging "fast facts" daily practice.

In Second Grade, a few of the math concepts your child will work with include:

- Automaticity with addition and subtraction facts
- Polygons and 3D shapes
- Equivalent fractions and fractions word problems
- Arrays
- Adding three or more numbers
- Money word problems
- Metric and US standard systems
- Place value notation to the hundred thousands
- Multiplication and division facts

SOCIAL STUDIES

Second Grade Social Studies has a strong emphasis on service learning and on embracing the diversity of the human experience. Students explore their own identities and go through a variety of exercises designed to help them appreciate each others' similarities and differences. Through their classroom lessons, field trips, service projects, and reflections, Second Graders examine topics including gender, physical and cognitive disabilities, and people from a range of cultural backgrounds. They celebrate themselves, their families, and each other, and extend the reach of their understanding to encompass as broad a perspective as possible. Throughout the year, the Second Graders engage directly with the topics they study through their service projects, which are guided by the students' interests along with the learning objectives for the class.

SCIENCE

The study of Science at Lerner is a hands-on, inquiry-driven learning experience. Through the innovative STEMscopes Curriculum, which teachers supplement with their own resources and by utilizing the outdoor environment along with field trips, students are given ample opportunities to explore, ask questions, form hypotheses, experiment, and come to their own conclusions. Second Grade Science is a project-based curriculum utilizing the scientifically proven 5E Model: Engage, Explore, Explain, Evaluate, and Elaborate, and has its pedagogical roots in Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences. Each Second Grade unit of study provides hands-on opportunities for these five learning goals. The Second Grade units of study include Matter and Energy, Properties of Light, Properties of Sound, Endangered Species, and Life Cycles. In addition to investigating matter, energy, light, and sound through experiments and observations in the Lerner Science Lab, Second Grade scientists complete multi-disciplinary projects. Second Graders construct their own instruments, describe their construction process in step-by-step manuals, and deliver presentations to their classmates. They also complete thorough investigations of Endangered Species that culminate in formal projects and presentations. Finally, the end of the school year will be devoted to exploring life cycles through a unit that includes nurturing and hatching chicks.

At Lerner a strong emphasis is placed on values and ethics. While learning about endangered species, students discuss the Jewish values of tza'ar ba'alei chayim (caring for animals and plants), ba'al tashkit (respecting and caring for the environment), and tikkun olam (taking care of the world). As they explore life cycles in Science, Social Studies and Judaic Studies, First and Second Graders discover the web connecting all living things and learn about their roles and responsibilities within it.

JUDAIC STUDIES

The Jewish Studies program at Lerner utilizes the Ivrit b'Ivrit (Hebrew immersion) Tal Am curriculum to foster a love of tradition and community, build a sense of values and responsibility to one another, engender a strong Jewish identity, and create confident Jewish learners and participants. Second Graders study stories from the Torah, looking in-depth at the stories from the book of Bereshit (Genesis). They learn about Israel, examine the cycle of the Jewish year, and embrace the Jewish values of kavod (respect), derech eretz (good manners), tikkun olam (repairing the world), and tzedakah (charity). In connection with their exploration of Torah, the Second Graders write their own Midrash to raise and answer their own questions as they interpret biblical lessons. The culmination of their explorations is a Chumash ceremony that will be the centerpiece of the Second Grade Family Program.

HEBREW

Working with the Hebrew immersion Tal Am curriculum, Second Graders expand their Hebrew reading, writing abilities, and their vocabularies. They learn gender and number agreement for nouns and simple sentence structure, and are introduced to prepositions and negation. As their vocabularies grow, the children are able to increasingly express themselves in Hebrew as they read and respond to stories, play games, learn Israeli songs, compose sentences and short paragraphs, and much more. Second graders also study Hebrew script writing.

SPOTLIGHT ON...SCIENCE

As part of their study of Life Cycles, Second Graders watch in wonder as chicken eggs incubate and hatch right in their classroom. During the 21-day incubation period, students learn about the changing embryo within each egg and the stages of chick development. They ask questions about the incubation process, use print and internet materials to research the answers, and write and illustrate books explaining the process. While the embryos grow, students participate in the candling process, in which they shine a light inside the egg to illuminate the chick.

As the eggs begin to crack, all eyes are on the incubator. When the timing is right, students are able to watch the chick emerge from the egg on the big screen through use of a document camera and the SmartBoard. Students learn about the needs and preferences of the baby chicks and take responsibility for their care in their first days of life.