



Ellington Public Schools Curriculum Guide

Grade 2

The Ellington Public Schools elementary curriculum is designed to enhance children's intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development, while supporting students in acquiring the skills needed to become collaborative and independent learners.

This document provides you with an overview of the skills, topics, and concepts that form the core curriculum at this grade level. The curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards and other state and national standards in each content area.



Each child is viewed as a unique person with an individual pattern and pace of growth. Different approaches to learning and skill levels are expected, accepted, and used to design curriculum and instruction.

MATHEMATICS

The mathematics program maintains a balance in the development of math concepts, skills and problem solving. Students apply their knowledge of skills and concepts while working on meaningful and challenging tasks. Second graders develop fluency and accuracy adding and subtracting two-digit numbers and word problems. They learn to classify geometric shapes, use these shapes to explore area and perimeter, and construct data tables and bar graphs to interpret real-life data. The Bridges in Mathematics program is used as a resource for instruction.



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KEY SECOND GRADE MATH SKILLS

- Build fluency with addition and subtraction within 20;
- Understand and use the place value in three-digit numbers to add and subtract;
- Solve addition and subtraction word problems with one or two steps;
- Measure and estimate lengths of objects using standard units;
- Describe and analyze shapes

LANGUAGE ARTS

Our second grade language arts curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts. Building upon the spiral curriculum laid out in kindergarten and first grades, students in grade 2 will continue to gain skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. We approach the teaching of literacy through a balanced approach that supports students through reading workshop, writing workshop, phonics, and small-group instruction.

READING

In second grade students will continue to grow as readers developing fluency and understanding through lots of reading, developing strong reading behaviors, and instruction with texts on and just above students' just right reading levels. Our second graders are taught to transfer reading practices, such as paying close attention to details in the text, to their own independent reading.

WRITING

Second grade students will be excited to use their developing vocabulary to express their ideas and will continue to use a writing process to practice different genres of writing, including narrative, opinion, and information writing. Teachers will continue to provide direct instruction in the skills and strategies of proficient writing, engage students in frequent writing practice with regular assessment-based feedback and support the study of writing with grade-level mentor texts.



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PHONICS

The purpose of phonics and word study is to help children become efficient problem-solvers of words by developing their knowledge of words. Typically, a part of each day is devoted to explicit, direct phonics instruction through the Foundations program.

KEY SECOND GRADE LITERACY SKILLS

- Determine the lesson or moral of a story or the main idea in a nonfiction text;
- Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of details in a text;
- Use text features such as captions to locate information in the text;
- Write an opinion about a book using important details to support ideas

HANDWRITING

The Foundations handwriting program is used.

SCIENCE

In second grade, students work toward formulating explanations to questions about the natural world such as "How does land change and what are some things that cause it to change?", "How are materials similar and different from one another, and how do those properties relate to their use?" and "What do plants need to grow?". Through various activities, explorations, and interactions, students will begin to build their understanding of complex phenomena in the world around them.

SOCIAL STUDIES

In second grade, students will study how people, both past and present, have made a difference in their community, country, and world. Students will also explore how the past is remembered. This interdisciplinary study incorporates history, civics, economics, and geography. Using an inquiry approach, students will generate their own questions, research, and take informed action.



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MUSIC

The music program fosters an understanding of music and the development of musical skills through singing, listening, and movement. Students will begin to read and write basic rhythms from songs and poems through many engaging musical activities. Due to Covid restrictions, there will be limited playing of instruments.

ART

The art program develops an appreciation of art, introduces design elements, and gives opportunities to create art in a variety of media. Content is based on art appreciation, art history, art criticism, and art creation.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The physical education program engages students in carefully planned and sequenced movement experiences, activities, and sports that enable them to learn about themselves and their world.

HEALTH

In health students are provided opportunities to acquire the attitudes, knowledge and skills necessary for making health-promoting decisions. Students learn about personal wellness and develop skills that foster healthy habits, infection prevention, and effective communication. A focus on family systems is included in second grade.

HOMEWORK

Reading and developing literacy skills is a priority in the elementary curriculum. Ideally, students should read outside of school on a daily basis. In second grade the expected length of time for reading at home is 10-20 minutes of reading/being read to each day. To help establish the reading habit, families are encouraged to support this goal by setting aside time each day for reading.



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