



Second Grade Curriculum

*The Academy is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*

*We are committed to excellence
in spiritual formation and academics.*

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Second Grade Curriculum

Academic Program



Religion /Scripture

The religion program focuses on spiritual formation. The primary text is Jesus Our Life, published by Ignatius Press. It is a comprehensive Catholic program that combines beautiful classical and original art work with a solid doctrinal and scriptural presentation. These texts according to Bishop Thomas Muldoon are unsurpassed in lucidity of doctrine, in fidelity to God's revelations, and in stimulation of real interest and love for the Faith.

Blessed, by Dynamic Catholic, is a beautifully illustrated set of workbooks and videos featuring First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

Aim

To prepare second grade students for Confession and Holy Communion and to help them appreciate God's love for them shown in these two sacraments. There is an added emphasis on the order of the Mass and on prayer.

Theme

Preparation for the first reception of the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion, with the law of God and salvation history as background. The lesson emphasizes God's mercy and love. Covers Commandments, Creation, and Redemption.

Sequence

Ch. 1-16: God teaches us through His law; we obey through love.

Ch. 17-23: We find forgiveness of sins through Jesus' sacrifice.

Ch. 24-34: We prepare for life in Heaven by reception of Jesus in the Eucharist and our life in the Church.

Phonics

Saxon's phonics series is an explicit, systematic program that complements our Open Court Reading series. The goal is to teach students how to read and spell so that they will be able to read and write independently with confidence. This program gives students the tools and necessary practice for success in reading and writing.

Second grade students will:

- † Understand how reading, spelling, and handwriting function as a whole.
- † Build a firm foundation in phonics awareness.
- † Be able to blend sounds to read and unblend sounds to spell.
- † Be able to code their words.

Reading/Language Arts

This research based program gives students the means to become independent readers by:

- † Developing phonetic awareness
- † Developing comprehension
- † Practicing skills in writing

Open Court Collections for Young Scholars transcends traditional reading programs.

Reading/Language Arts continued...

Features of this series:

- † Award winning fiction and non-fiction selections from renowned writers and illustrators.
- † Science and social studies themes.
- † A moral or virtue value in every story.
- † Systematic instruction organized in unit themes around engaging concepts.
- † Phonics, comprehension, and writing built into every lesson.

Selections include:

Poetry

Fiction

Folktales

Nonfiction

Riddles

Character Tales

Plays

Art

This series stresses all the traditional reading skills that develop fluent readers. It then goes beyond the mechanics of reading, and stretches the mind and imagination of the reader. The goal of the series is to develop critical, independent readers.

All reading stories are fiction and non-fiction; all poetry and art selections were chosen to develop a specific theme. In every theme, the virtue is emphasized.

Themes in the second grade text:

- † Being brave
- † Rich and poor
- † Fossils
- † Kindness
- † Responsibility
- † Appearances
- † Our Country: The Early Years
- † Our Country: E. Pluribus Unum

Supplemental Readers

- † American Cardinal Readers
- † Bennets Book of Virtues for Young Children
- † Lives of the Saints for Children
- † We Both Read
- † National Geographic Publications

Writing

Second graders learn to use writing as a means of expression. Focus is on the mechanics of writing and the ability to express ideas. Students will learn to:

- † Write a paragraph
- † Use proper punctuation and capitalization
- † Write friendly letters
- † Organize information (sequence ideas)
- † Journal writing
- † Use vivid language and sensory images
- † Expository and descriptive paragraphs
- † Fictional stories
- † Personal narrative stories
- † Poetry
- † Book reports
- † Use the steps of writing: prewriting, outlining, rough draft, editing and final draft.

English

A firm grasp of the structure and use of language is critical to successfully harnessing the power of the written word. Mastery of proper grammar, usage, and mechanics is the goal the comprehensive grammar program in Shurley English. The exercises in the English workbook provides the added reinforcement students need. Second graders will be able to:

English continued...

- † Use possessive nouns
- † Distinguish between a fragment and a sentence
- † Capitalize initials
- † Identify the verb or action word
- † Use periods, question marks, and exclamation marks
- † Recognize types of sentences: declarative, exclamatory, imperative, interrogative
- † Use irregular plurals
- † Use articles
- † Use verb contractions and helping verbs
- † Understand past, present, and future tense
- † Understand, recognize, and use adjectives
- † Understand subject verb agreement
- † Correctly use I/me
- † Use commas and quotation marks, exclamation points in addresses, dates, or letters
- † Address envelopes
- † Indent paragraphs

Listening/Speaking

Shurley English incorporates listening, speaking, and writing as an integrated whole. Students will:

- † Listen for understanding
- † Follow directions
- † Recall information
- † Enunciate
- † Express feelings
- † Share ideas
- † Tell and retell stories
- † Give oral reports
- † Make introductions
- † Participate in discussions

Handwriting

Legible handwriting will be developed through daily practice using the Universal Publishing Handwriting Program, both manuscript and cursive.

Spelling

Spelling skills are integrated into the phonics and reading program. Spelling skills are also taught using spelling rules and high frequency words in a structured spelling program called Spelling Workout, published by Modern Curriculum Press.

Vocabulary

Second grade students have a developmental sensitivity for new and interesting words. The Academy's vocabulary program provides an engaging, systematic approach to new words. Students will:

- † Understand new word meanings
- † Use new words in everyday language
- † Incorporate new words in writing assignments

Analogies

Shurley English teaches children to think analytically with simple pictures and word analogies. Students will:

- † Find similarities
- † Categorize
- † Make comparisons
- † Find causal relationships
- † The three analogies used are: synonym and antonyms, part to whole, rhyming

Math

McGraw-Hill's My Math series is a hands on, activity centered, success orientated program that incorporates manipulatives and mental math. The program is based upon mastery development. There is an online component that is used in the classroom and can be reinforced at home.

The students develop a solid foundation in the language and basic concepts of mathematics. Students will:

- † Compare and order numbers
- † Identify and extend counting patterns
- † Solve routine and non-routine problems
- † Measuring using inches, feet, and centimeters
- † Count money
- † Use customary and metric lengths
- † Identify polygons, geometric solids
- † Create, read, and write observations from graphs
- † Identify angles
- † Apply additions/subtraction concepts (2 and 3 digits)
- † Recognize number patterns
- † Use place value to 1,000
- † Apply data analysis
- † Recognize geometric shapes and equal shares
- † Tell time to hour, half hour, quarter hour, and 5 minute intervals
- † Use A.M. and P.M.

STEM

Students integrate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math in a variety of problem solving situations. Students apply the Scientific Method and Engineering Process during experiential learning.

Science

The Macmillan/McGraw-Hill Series provides a blend of concepts, inquiry, and hands-on content. Children are exposed to the process skills needed to form and test hypothesis. The units taught are:

Life Science

- † How plants live and grow
- † How animals grow and change
- † Living things and their environment
- † Changing environments

Physical Science

- † Matter and how it changes
- † Forces, machines, and work
- † Energy in your world
- † Sound

Earth Science

- † Changes in the earth's surface
- † Materials of the earth
- † The sun, planets, and moon
- † Clouds and storms

Social Studies

The Macmillan/McGraw-Hill series prepares students for informed participation in tomorrow's America. This comprehensive social studies program presents a mixture of history, geography, economics, citizenship, and culture. The second grade text, Time Links, explores themes that focus on:

- † Learning about communities
- † American communities in history
- † Communities and their geography
- † Earning a living
- † Celebrations and festivals
- † Governing ourselves

Geography

A comprehensive map skills program from Modern Curriculum Press called Maps, Charts, and Graphs. Concepts covered in second grade:

- † Comparing earth and a globe
- † Land forms
- † Using a grid
- † Reading resource maps

Health

Students will develop an understanding of personal health and safety issues such as:

- † Good eating habits
- † Proper rest and exercise
- † Good hygiene
- † Injury prevention and safety

Computers

These skills are introduced in the classroom through the computer and SMART Board for integration into the curriculum to help children learn how to research and process information.

Library

Students come to the library weekly to check out books at their reading level. When research projects are assigned, students are directed to the appropriate subject matter.

Physical Education

Second grade students learn to move their body through space in a coordinated purposeful way. They will master basic motor skills and explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle. Students will:

Physical Education continued...

- † Demonstrate ball handling skills, catch, and throw
- † Master locomotor skills such as skipping, hopping, and jumping
- † Maintain personal fitness
- † Listen and follow directions
- † Master laterality, directionality, and balance

Art

The art program exposes children to a variety of art forms and artists. Students will:

- † Enjoy creating their own art
- † Express their individually through art
- † Learn to interpret artistic works

Music

Second graders will be able to:

- † Expressing themselves in song
- † Follow a tune
- † Identify musical notes and rhythm patterns
- † Distinguish elements of music
- † Interpret musical compositions
- † Perform in a musical production

Spanish

¡Viva el Español The curriculum, by McGraw-Hill, is organized by thematic units. The program uses songs, games, natural conversation, and role-playing to create a fun, non-threatening environment for young learners of Spanish.

General Information

Report Cards/Progress Reports

Students will receive a report card at the end of each ten-week marking period. Students in need of academic assistance will receive a progress report at the end of the five-week point or half way through the marking period.

Parent Conferences

Parent conferences are scheduled for late October. However, parents may schedule a separate conference at anytime.

Homework

For children to achieve mastery, reinforcement is absolutely necessary. Homework is assigned, as needed, for practice and special projects. Expect to give some assistance to second graders. Use lots of praise and positive reinforcement. Help your child succeed by:

- † Providing a quiet area for study
- † Discourage or prohibit TV on school nights
- † Read to your child
- † Listen to your child read
- † Provide nutritious meals and plenty of exercise
- † Schedule sufficient rest (9 hours for 2nd graders)
- † Show an interest in school activities
- † Keep communication lines open with the school
- † Log on the math website for additional support.

SchoolSpeak

Kindergarten - 8th Grade

SchoolSpeak is an online communication tool which allows parents and students to view homework, newsletters, grades, and report cards. Parents and teachers can easily message each other when the need arises.

