

Second Grade

Second grade might be best described as one of great enthusiasm as the class dives deeper into learning. As the class's knowledge of mathematics, writing and reading steadily increases, this eager interest is supported by the strength of their ability. It is a wonderful and empowering experience to pick up a book and be able to read it, to be faced with a problem and be able to solve it through math. Equally valuable is the deepening of the social bonds between the students, now they have formed as a class.

During Second grade, students hear myths from around the world, stories of saints and fables. Through the rich and meaningful platform of these stories, teachers' encourage the students to compose and write descriptive sentences, find examples of grammar and learn spelling. Second grade students learn phonics, spelling rules, common sight words, basic punctuation and grammar. They practice reading aloud; individually and chorally. Second grade students continue to strengthen public speaking skills and expand their vocabulary through drama and speech exercises, as well as the recitation of complex poetry and verse. Students become proficient in writing in upper and lower case print, and learn how to write in cursive.

In Second grade, students explore math patterns, wonder at the logic and the artistic beauty of those patterns, and start to see the laws of mathematics reflected around them. They estimate and solve problems through daily mental math practice, increasing their ability to mentally picture and sequence.

Students practice the simple addition and subtraction facts through fun games and activities. They learn to count by 2,3,4,5,6,10 and 11 both backward and forward and begin to learn multiplication tables, first in sequence and then randomly. They work on place value up to 1,000,000. Second grade students add and subtract with multi digit numbers, using borrowing and carrying.

Students in the second grade move while they are learning, and learn while they are moving. Desk work becomes easier and more focused for children who are able to take purposeful motor breaks. Students memorize more readily at this age when they are alert and the facts are emphasized with rhythmical stamping, clapping or skipping. The teacher provides movement activities that integrate and harmonize the still developing bodies and minds of the students. Games classes continue to support team building and sportsmanship, while helping students to develop agility, strength, speed and grace. Students play outside in all weather, and participate in robust physical activity.

In the spring, students improve the soil and enjoy planting a vegetable garden that will be harvested in the late summer of third grade, when they study agriculture and grains.

As part of the artistic endeavors of second grade, the students play increasingly difficult songs on the pentatonic flute, and sing folk and seasonal songs. They continue to develop their skills with wet on wet watercolor painting, drawing and modeling. Students continue to knit in their handwork class.

The subjects presented by the class teacher are supplemented by specialty classes in Spanish, handwork and eurythmy.