

Parent Guide to Second Grade



English Language Arts

In second grade, your child will gain more skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. They will read a wider variety of texts with more complex vocabulary and will also write to express multiple ideas about a topic. In addition, second graders will be more attentive to the formal and informal uses of English.

Important goals for the year include:

Reading:

- Use grade level phonics and word analysis skills to decode unknown words when reading.
- Recount fables and folktales and determine the central message, lesson or moral.
- Identify the main topic of an informational text.
- Pay close attention to details, including illustrations and graphics, in stories and books to answer who, what, where, when, why, and how questions.
- Use text features (e.g., captions, bold print, indexes) to locate key facts or information efficiently.
- Compare and contrast two or more versions of the same story.
- Read different texts on the same topic and compare the most important points.
- Use different strategies to determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text.
- Make connections within a text.

Writing:

- Write opinion, informational, and narrative pieces.
- Use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish their writing.
- Participate in shared research and writing projects.
- Use grade-appropriate grammar and spelling, including capitals, commas, apostrophes, and end punctuation.
- Begin cursive letter writing instruction in the third quarter.

Speaking/Listening:

- Take part in discussions on different topics or texts by building on others' comments and asking questions in order to clarify comprehension, gather additional information, or deepen understanding about the topic or issue.
- Produce, expand and rearrange sentences depending on the task or situation.

Mathematics

In second grade, your child will continue to strengthen math habits such as problem solving, persistence, precision, accuracy, modeling, constructing arguments, and checking to see if the answer makes sense. Important goals for the year include:

- Solve addition and subtraction word problems with one or two steps.
- Quickly and accurately add and subtract within 20. Know all sums of two one-digit numbers from memory.
- Determine if a number is odd or even.
- Understand that the three digits of a three-digit number represent amounts of hundreds, tens, and ones (place value).
- Read, write, and compare numbers to 1000.
- Count within 1000. Skip-count by fives, tens, and hundreds.
- Use place value understanding to add and subtract three-digit numbers.
- Estimate and measure length in standard units (inches, feet, centimeters, and meters).
- Tell and write time to the nearest five minutes.
- Solve word problems involving lengths and money.
- Represent and interpret data on picture graphs, bar graphs, and line plots.
- Build, draw, and identify two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes.
- Divide circles and rectangles into halves, thirds, and fourths.

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Science

As second grade students learn about the life, physical, and earth sciences, they will develop skills of observation, actively participate in simple investigations, have opportunities to use their senses and other tools to gather data, and time to talk about their observations with peers.

Important goals for the year include:

- Illustrate and summarize how sound is produced.
- Understand the properties of solids and liquids and the changes they undergo when heated or cooled.
- Use tools to observe and compare the daily and seasonal patterns of weather.
- Summarize and compare animal life cycles.
- Compare the similarities and differences of organisms to their parents based on observable characteristics.

Social Studies

Second grade students will explore aspects of self, others, families and communities across the world when learning about different social studies concepts.

Important goals for the year include:

- Understand how various artifacts and resources provide information about the past.
- Compare various interpretations of the same time period.
- Interpret symbols, physical and human features, legends and cardinal directions on a map.
- Explain how people interact with and affect the environment.
- Understand basic economic concepts including needs and wants, producers and consumers, supply and demand, trade, and personal finances.
- Understand the purpose of government and the responsibilities of citizens.
- Explain how various cultures influence the community (through stories, music, art, food, etc.).

Resources for Parents

Randolph County School System

www.randolph.k12.nc.us

Parent Resources

www.ed.gov

NBC Education Nation Parent Toolkit

www.parenttoolkit.com/

K-12 Standards in Science and Other Subjects

www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/standards/

National PTA Parent Guides

www.pta.org