



Second Grade Curriculum

Second grade is a grace-filled year! The students grow in their desire to know and love God as they grow in self-knowledge of being created in the image of God.

Highlights of the year:

- Preparing for and receiving the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion (the beginning of life-long practices!)
- Pilgrimage to the Catholic Pastoral Center for the Diocesan Mass.
- Participating in May Crowning as the honor guard.

Religion

Our religion curriculum is taught using *Spirit of Truth Our Life in Jesus* by the Sophia Institute. Grade 2 students focus on how much children are loved by Jesus Christ, and how His death and Resurrection has opened the way to Heaven. Second grade also uses *Blessed* through *Dynamic Catholic*.

- The parts of the Mass
- Lives and lessons of the saints
- More ways to pray
- A special focus on the Sacraments of Confession and Eucharist
- Children attend Mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Adoration
- Mass Buddies
- Prayer Buddies

Math

In Second Grade, we use *Progress in Mathematics* by Sadlier. *Progress in Mathematics* for 2nd grade is a math curriculum that emphasizes conceptual understanding through problem-solving, reasoning, and practice. It helps students build foundational skills by providing a consistent, stepped-out instructional approach with opportunities to apply concepts. The program focuses on deepening understanding of key topics like place value (reading and writing three-digit numbers), addition and subtraction (including regrouping), and multiplication as repeated addition.

Language Arts

The language arts curriculum follows several programs including *Wilson Learning Foundations Phonics*, *Developmental Spelling*, *Vocabulary Workshop*, and *Daily Five*. Second graders also research and give a biography report using a book about their favorite historical figure.

Wilson Learning Foundations Phonics

Level 2 of Foundations builds on the essential components of structured literacy that were learned in Levels K and 1 and progresses further into the study of word structure. Teachers should combine *Foundations* with a wide variety of text experiences, and expose students to poetry and narrative and informational text.

Developmental Spelling Assessment

The main purpose of the DSA – Developmental Spelling Assessment is to determine a child's stage of development. The screening device consists of 20 words that become progressively more difficult. The words are grouped into sets of five, with each set focusing on a different stage of word knowledge, beginning with letter name. The Screening Inventory has been found to accurately identify a child's stage of development over 90% of the time (Ganske, 1999).

Vocabulary Workshop

Sadlier's Vocabulary Workshop for second grade introduces 140 words through 14 units, focusing on academic vocabulary via contextual and definitional exercises. It includes features like introductory reading passages, word meaning exercises, writing prompts, and unit reviews with activities like synonyms, antonyms, and classifications.

Daily Five

Daily Five is a reading supplemental program that helps students to develop independence, stamina, and accountability. It provides students with an abundant amount of time to practice reading, writing, and listening and allows teachers to differentiate instruction.

- Read to Self
- Read to Someone
- Work on Writing
- Listen to Reading
- Word Work
- One-on-one and small group time with teacher

Social Studies

Our Social Studies curriculum is taught using the *Gallopade* Social Studies curriculum. This curriculum was designed specifically with Tennessee state standards in mind.

Science

Our science curriculum is taught using a variety of resources. Examples of the standards topics covered include:

1. fossils
2. recycling
3. Erosion and weathering
4. Fresh water/salt water
5. Solar system
6. Phases of the moon
7. Plants and animals
8. Vertebrates and invertebrates
9. Life cycles
10. Force/gravity
11. Simple machines

Science and Social Studies units are alternated throughout the year.

Handwriting

Our handwriting curriculum is taught using Universal publishing's *Writing Our Catholic Faith*. Students trace and write manuscript basic strokes, letters and numerals. Word and sentence models encourage proper letter and word spacing. 1/2" writing lines with midline and descender space. Catholic words, sentences, and pictures reinforce students' faith while they practice manuscript handwriting in this workbook.

Technology

St. Matthew is an Apple Distinguished School. Technology is used in whole group and small group center instruction. Students use programs such as *Book Creator*, *Padlet*, and *Stop Motion*. The Technology Integrationist supports special projects and enhances the curriculum tailored for this age group. In the second semester of the school year, the 2nd grade participate in “Tech Time” once a month, where they explore the fundamentals of various applications. Additionally, a cart equipped with 25 iPads is accessible for use in K-2 classrooms. Technology is used in a developmentally appropriate way in 2nd grade.

Field Trips

Second graders experience opportunities to engage with real-world learning when they take a trip to Traveller’s Rest. Additional “in house” field trips such as authors, scientists, and community professionals are scheduled throughout the year as well.