

Second Grade Program Highlights

Literacy

Reading, writing, speaking and listening are integral to all that we do in grade two. Our Balanced Literacy program ensures that students have daily instruction in the foundational skills required for effective reading, writing and word work. Our second grade literacy benchmarks are aligned to the Common Core English/Language Arts standards. Students receive daily small-group decoding and comprehension instruction within our guided reading program. In addition, students participate in whole-class shared reading, interactive read-aloud, and independent reader's workshop.

Writing instruction utilizes the process approach and is focused on developing skills for writing narrative, opinion, and informational text, as well as poetry. Teachers model effective writing, conference during independent writing time, and foster opportunities for shared writing experiences across the curriculum.

Second grade writer's workshop units include:

- *Realistic Fiction & Small Moments*
- *"All About" Books*
- *Mentor Authors*
- *Folk Tales*

Phonics, grammar, mechanics and vocabulary are integrated into literacy lessons or directly taught through word work activities.

Print handwriting is taught using the *Handwriting Without Tears* program.



Mathematics

The *Everyday Mathematics* program is a research-based, field-tested curriculum that emphasizes lifelong mathematical understanding. Its lessons engage students in hands-on activities to build and reinforce computational and problem-solving skills. *Everyday Mathematics'* second grade benchmarks are aligned to the Common Core standards.

Critical areas of focus for grade two include:

- *Reading, Counting & Comparing Numbers*
- *Building Fluency With Addition & Subtraction*
- *Standard Units of Measure*
- *Describing & Analyzing Shapes*

Social Studies

Second grade social studies units explore local and global communities, and how people live, work, and resolve conflicts. Three thematic units provide inquiry-based activities that tie in local and African traditions with the study of communities.

Second grade units include:

- *The N'Gor Community*
- *Community Celebrations Around The World*
- *Safari To Kenya & The Masai Community*

In addition, all ISD students participate in a celebration of global cultural diversity, Senegalese art, and traditional West African music during our school-wide World Culture Month.

Science

FOSS (Full-Option Science System) kits provide our second graders with thematic lessons that incorporate hands-on scientific exploration in the areas of Life, Physical, and Earth Science. Second grade benchmarks are aligned to the *NSES (National Science Education Standards)*.

Second grade units include:

- *Air & Weather*
- *Solids & Liquids*
- *The Interdependence of Plants & Animals*

French Language

Students receive daily instruction in the French language for 45-minute instructional blocks. Based on *AERO (American Education Reaches Out)* and French National Standards, the curriculum offers opportunities for integrated reading, writing, speaking and listening, as well as for exploration of the French and Senegalese cultures.

Visual and Musical Arts

Second graders attend separate art and music classes twice per 6-day cycle. During these 45-minute sessions, children explore the visual and musical arts through hands-on experiences that encourage creativity, collaboration and interpretation. Students perform in school-wide concerts and art exhibitions throughout the year. When possible, music and art lessons are integrated into classroom units of study.

Physical Education & Health

Physical education is offered two times per 6-day cycle in 45-minute sessions. During this time, students learn the skills and strategies for team and individual sports, fitness, and dance and movement. Sportsmanship is highly emphasized, and students learn to work together in teams. Swimming instructional units are offered twice a year in September and in May. Health topics are embedded in classroom units and facilitated by teachers and the school nurse.

Technology, Research, & Library

ISD's technology curriculum is an integrated program that infuses critical computer literacy benchmarks into existing grade level units of study. Students create media-based projects that build 21st century digital skills.

Students visit the library to learn about the power of books and research. ISD uses the *Superg Research* model for information problem solving, and students learn to PLAN, DO and REVIEW while they develop research projects that are integrated into classroom units of study. Second graders visit the library once a week to check out books.

Service Learning

ISD takes pride in an established community service program and maintains ongoing relationships with two local organizations:

- *Samusocial, a Dakar-based support agency for Talibe street children,*
- *Le Poupponiere, an orphanage for Senegalese newborns and toddlers whose mothers have died at childbirth.*

Second graders participate in activities with a local Ngor School as well as with our school-based initiative, *Joppale*, which supports ISD local staff.

English Language Learners

ISD offers a sheltered immersion program for English Language Learners. Students are assessed at the beginning of the year to determine needs. Non-English proficient students receive daily support with the ELL specialist during the Language Arts instructional block (45 minutes - 1 1/2 hours daily). Limited-English proficient students are supported in after-school programs. The ELL specialist works with teachers to employ a wide variety of differentiation strategies to meet the needs of English Language Learners in their classrooms.

Learning Support

In the second grade, both teachers and specialists use early intervention strategies to address weak literacy or mathematics. This small-group support may take place during the literacy block or during daily French instructional time. The early intervention program is fluid in nature, offering students an opportunity to receive the support needed to meet grade level expectations in core subject areas. An *IEP (Individual Education Plan)* is not written for students receiving this support unless a specific learning disability has previously been identified through a psycho-educational evaluation.

