

The Second Grade Curriculum

Second grade is an important year in your child's elementary experience. They have become familiar with the school setting and have settled into the routines of classrooms and active learning. Second graders learn to balance their desire to socialize and to gain immediate gratification by practicing patience and cooperation. Teachers follow the DFSD approved academic programs that are aligned with the Next Gen Learning Standards. Lessons are expanded and modified to meet the needs and interests of our students. We use hands-on learning experiences to make learning fun and impactful.



Word Study / Reading

Dobbs Ferry students use the [Wilson Foundations](#) program in grades K - 3. Second graders therefore have a foundational understanding of phonemes and how to write the sounds they hear to form words. Foundations instruction is systematic and explicit instruction in phonemic awareness, high frequency word study (Trick Words), fluency development, vocabulary acquisition, handwriting practice and spelling. In second grade we dive deeper into the study of word structure. Units in Foundations focus on 6 syllable types: closed, vowel-consonant-e, open, r-controlled, vowel digraph/diphthong and consonant-le. The resources with the program are used for hands-on interactive engagement in daily practice. There are 17 Foundations units in second grade. Families have access to unit [Home Support](#) pages in order to help coach their child in unit learning objectives.

Second grade is a transitional year in reading. Our main goal is to ignite a love for reading. We work to build independent reading confidence through daily practice with instruction in specific strategies. Fluency and reading for meaning are the focus of classroom learning throughout the day, in every area of curriculum. Students are taught to read longer words and passages. We use context clues to figure out the meaning of new vocabulary. Reading instruction is delivered in guided reading groups, independent reading and whole-class read alouds. Students grow into independent readers through strong instruction in phonics as well as reading comprehension strategies. We support our curriculum with [Scholastic News](#) for leveled whole class discussions on curated thematic topics. In addition, every second grader is provided with a [RAZ Kids](#) account to use online at home. Raz Kids is a leveled library of hundreds of interactive texts that are both fiction and non-fiction. The program includes single text comprehension questions allowing teachers to monitor understanding. Raz also has

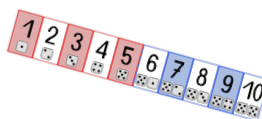
a record feature that records an audio file of readers so teachers may listen for progress in decoding and student's fluency development. Second graders are assigned to read at home for 15 minutes daily to increase fluency and to provide opportunities for student text preference.



Writing

Second graders write about their life experiences and personal interests in creative expression. We also learn the mechanics of answering questions by writing short responses. Teachers work to build confidence, focus, legibility, and on conventions of print as we follow our district designed writing calendar. We focus on parts of speech, composing complete sentences, proper capitalization and punctuation and using environmental print for conventional spelling. Students will learn to brainstorm ideas, develop their sentences and to reread their work for independent revision. We celebrate the growth of writers elaborating with the use of dialogue, a hook, using their author voice, word choice, and sentences synthesizing their message / story. Students draft, edit, revise, and publish their pieces. In our non-fiction study, students learn to take notes to develop an informational piece. Second graders move from invented spelling to more and more conventional spelling throughout the year. Our calendar includes writing short responses, personal narrative, persuasive writing, informational writing, writing as a researcher, responding to literature, and procedural writing.

Math



This year we will be teaching a new math program called Illustrative Mathematics ([IM](#)) Springhurst teachers and students piloted a few of these units over the past 2 years and we are so delighted to adopt this curriculum for the 2022 - 2023 school year! Over the summer Dobbs Ferry teachers and Mr. Rosen participated in IM training. We will continue to have support in rolling out the program this year with grades 3 and 5.

IM Math™ is fully aligned to the focus, rigor, and coherence of the standards, and has been given the stamp of approval by *EdReports*, earning perfect scores in the areas of Focus & Coherence and Rigor & Mathematical Practices. The scope and sequence of units, activities and representations are designed to help students develop a deep understanding of mathematical concepts, build fluency with procedures and solve mathematical problems that reflect and connect to their lived experiences. In IM Math, students are taught to explain their thinking and to build a class mathematics community where risk taking is celebrated and where we learn through participation and deep discussions.

There are eight units of learning in the second grade program and a ninth unit of review. Each unit has its own student workbook. Parents will receive information letters and videos at the beginning of each unit so that they can become familiar with the program's style. Topics are Adding, Subtracting, and Working with Data, Adding and Subtracting within 100, Measuring Length, Addition and Subtraction on the Number Line, Numbers to 1,000, Geometry, Time, and Money, Adding and Subtracting within 1,000 and Equal Groups.



Social Studies, Science and Social Emotional Learning

Second graders are interested in the world around them. They are naturally curious and love to learn. We observe, make comparisons, discuss and wonder about the world around us. One underlying concept that occurs often in second grade is that of interdependence.

Our [social studies curriculum](#) is developed by PNW Boces. It is aligned with the NYS Framework and with the Next Gen Standards. Our units of study are; Active Citizenship, Economics, Rural, Suburban and Urban Communities, and Geography of Communities. We will work to understand differences and similarities in these various communities through stories and videos.

[Science 21](#) is the science curriculum at Springhurst. It is also licensed through PNW Boces. It is designed to help students investigate and to understand the world around them by using scientific and engineering practices. Children participate in science investigations and work collaboratively to solve problems with design and testing. We have 3 units of study in second grade. The units are: Structure and Properties of Matter, Earth's Systems; Processes that Shape the Earth, and Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems. In all areas we stress individual growth and "learning how to learn." The children are encouraged to explore, question, discuss and share insights.

[Second Step](#) is a social emotional program adopted by Springhurst. It is a program with developmentally appropriate topics to help children to name and navigate their feelings. Second Step thoughtfully teaches strategies for individual self regulating. Students learn to Belly Breathe, to empathize with others, to celebrate differences and the importance of listening and keeping a calm body.



Springhurst FLES Program

The FLES curriculum for second grade is an immersion in listening and speaking Spanish. Second grade is the year Springhurst students begin participating in this dynamic program. A FLES teacher pushes into individual classrooms for 15-minute lessons daily. FLES instruction is

proficiency-oriented and focuses on meaningful communication over grammatical structure. Lessons are designed in games, songs, movement, and whole-class participation. Students develop confidence in Spanish with designed language training exercises that are geared to a second grader's interest and developmental level. The immersion approach is similar to the way a child acquired their primary language. Teachers are engaging and supportive of every effort! Our FLES program includes experiences with cultural practices and the integration of thematic content. Each lesson lays the foundation for the next and children gain confidence in Spanish language acquisition. As they follow the sequential FLES curriculum each year, students progress to reading and writing in Spanish.



Homework

Reading for 15 minutes each night is expected. You may read with your child, to your child or have your child read alone. It is important that you talk about the content, share your thoughts and connections with your child and encourage your child to talk about the storyline. Please make reading a priority in your home.

Math and/or some form of language arts homework will be given on a fairly regular basis. Teachers will communicate how and when homework should be turned in. The purpose of these assignments is simply to practice concepts that the child is working on at school. Homework should not take longer than 35 minutes (including 15 min. reading). If the assignment is taking longer, please connect with your child's teacher to discuss strategies to help your child have a successful experience. Please set aside a quiet time and place for homework. Encourage your child to work independently as much as possible but please look over the assignments to make sure that your child's name is on the page, directions are followed and the writing is legible. Your interest in your child's work is an important component in the development of good work habits and a positive attitude. Homework should be completed in pencil (unless otherwise noted) and in your child's best handwriting.



Communication



Many questions you have, may be answered on our district website <https://www.dfsd.org/sh>. In addition, please use your class coordinators as a resource of information. Any questions about school wide initiatives can be directed to the main office 693 - 1503.

If your child is having a particularly difficult time, is experiencing some sort of change, or is under any unusual stress, it would be helpful to let us know. You can send a note in your child's backpack or email your child's teacher. *Please note that emails will not be answered

during the school day because the teacher's first priorities are the students and learning in the classroom. Emails will be answered within 24 hours. Changes to your child's dismissal must be electronically entered through the School Dismissal Manager. (There is a link on the Springhurst webpage as well.)

Throughout the year, we will be observing your child's growth and development so that we can support individual needs. There will be two parent/teacher conference windows but we are always available to discuss any thoughts, questions or concerns.

We look forward to a wonderful year with your child.



Thank you for your partnership.

Welcome to Second Grade!

