



## **Mt. Lebanon School District**

### **Elementary Curriculum**

#### **Grade 2 Curriculum**

##### **English Language Arts**

Second grade students in the Mt. Lebanon School district are provided with skills and practice time to become fluent readers and writers. They are able to apply phonics rules and recall high frequency words as they read stories and visualize the events of the text. They are able to recall the sequence of events, compare and contrast with multiple stories, determine the author's purpose, identify the cause and effect of events, differentiate a fact from an opinion, and summarize what they have read. The children learn in large and small group settings with independent work times and technology available to enhance their learning. Mt. Lebanon second grade students are expected to read with expression, phrasing and natural pauses with a steady rate and accuracy. The children are required to respond to text-based questions and provide evidence from the story to support their answer. They also create informational, argumentative and narrative writing pieces throughout the school year.

##### **Mathematics**

Second grade students continue to build their number sense through counting/comparing quantities and composing/decomposing numbers. Students work with the operations of addition and subtraction to develop strategies for comparing, combining, and doubling quantities. Second grade students focus on using what they know (e.g., known combinations, order does not matter in addition) to make problems easier to solve, developing and refining strategies for solving a variety of addition and subtraction problems, and counting by groups. Students investigate what makes numbers even and odd. They develop an understanding of two and three dimensional shapes, the concepts of data, and patterns, sequences, and functions. Second grade students will strengthen their understanding of place value with specific emphasis on the structure of 100, and apply this understanding to strategies for adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers. Students work with 3-digit numbers by using expanded form, using comparison notation symbols, and adding and subtracting 10 or 100 from any number. Second grade students explore fractions and linear measurement as it relates to length, width, and units of measure. By the end of Second Grade, fluent recall of all addition and subtraction facts with sums and minuends up to 20 is expected.

##### **Science**

Our science program enhances students' attitudes toward science and encourages their natural curiosity. It provides students with knowledge of facts, concepts, and principles. We also teach students to use and apply science-related thinking and process skills (e.g. observation,

questioning, data gathering, note taking, analysis, and hypothesizing). During each curricular unit in science, students learn to work cooperatively in small groups with an emphasis on learning essential content and developing science process skills. Our science curriculum provides lessons and curriculum units in life science, physical science, and engineering.

In the Life Science unit each student experiences the complete life cycle of a plant in a very short time and learn that the cycle includes germination, growth, development of specialized parts, and even death, with the promise of new life in the seed. Students also learn about interdependent relationships between two organisms.

In the Physical Science unit students are introduced to the concept that matter exists in three states-solid, liquid, and gas-and that substances in each of these categories can be described by their unique properties. They also explore the processes that result in changes of state, including freezing, evaporation, melting, and condensation. Students make mixtures and discover how to separate them.

Through the engineering process, students are introduced to the circular design concept. This includes questioning, imagining, planning, creating, and improving within small cooperative groups.

## **Social Studies**

In second grade students learn about good citizenship through stories, and discussions about seven universal attributes: Respect, Honesty, Love, Justice, Courage, Loyalty and Hope. Students learn basic map skills (using a grid, directional symbols, map key) and create their own maps. The key concept in grade two is learning about “Community” and how it functions as a place where people live, work, play, and solve problems. One of the highlights is a “Walking Tour” field trip of uptown Mt. Lebanon, which was developed in association with the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation. Students visit the Public Safety Building to learn about our local police and fire departments, and see artifacts at the Mt. Lebanon Historical Society. Parents can help by encouraging map reading, visiting the library to read books about communities and the jobs people do, and by visiting local historic sites.

## **Art**

In second grade, students will explore the works of many famous artists including Pablo Picasso and Jim Dine. Students will use a variety of materials to create art that explores the ideas and imagery of the masters. Second grade students will have the opportunity to create drawings, paintings, ceramic pieces, sculptures, and printmaking, while focusing on shape as an element of design.

## **Vocal Music**

Second grade students continue to develop the concepts and skills introduced in first grade. Through singing, moving, and playing classroom instruments, students reinforce the concept of steady beat and develop the ability to recognize music in meters of 2, 3, or 4 beats. Students also

improve their ability to feel and internalize rhythms while improvising over simple, repeated rhythm patterns (ostinato). Students are introduced to the five line staff and solfege singing syllables (do, mi, so). The duration of quarter note, half note, quarter rest, and half rest is introduced and students recognize and use notation correctly. In addition, students experience and review form in music and understand how to determine different sections of a song. Students are introduced to the instruments of the orchestra, the orchestra seating chart, and the role of the conductor. They attend a free concert at Heinz Hall presented by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

### **Physical Education**

The curriculum for physical education provides equal opportunity for students to create, learn, enjoy and participate in skill development through a variety of physical activities that have life-long value. These activities are designed to contribute to good physical, mental, social and emotional health. The activities are divided into five areas, team games, rhythmic, low organization, lifetime sports and fitness. In team games, students demonstrate the fundamental skills and apply learned knowledge. Rhythmic activities use a variety of patterns and directions while low organization activities use fundamental movements and skills. Lifetime sports demonstrate the value of recreational activity and the fundamental skills of the game. Finally, fitness develops strength and endurance in all muscle groups.

### **Library**

In second grade, students visit the library weekly for a book exchange and a lesson. Lessons focus on differentiating between non-fiction and fiction texts and choosing appropriate materials for independent reading. Destiny, the online library catalog, is introduced in grade 2 with a focus on extracting useful data for use in locating a book in the library (title, author name, call number). Library citizenship and literature appreciation are also themes in second grade. In addition, students continue learning about internet safety, security and etiquette through lessons rooted in Common Sense Media's digital citizenship curriculum.

### **Spanish**

Second grade is an exciting year in Spanish, as students begin the year with a brief review from 1st grade and then the chance to develop their skills with exciting speaking activities to engage them. New units of focus will include: people and places in the community, seasons and weather, clothing and fruit. Throughout these units of study, students will engage in four different areas of communication- listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Spain is the cultural focus this year, which means students will focus on the traditions of bull-fighting, foods such as tapas, castles, Don Quixote, flamenco music and dancing, as well as holiday traditions such as Navidad (Christmas), Noche Vieja (New Year's Eve), Dia de los Tres Reyes (Three Kings Day) and Semana Santa (Holy Week).

## **Technology Assured Experiences**

In second grade, students learn how to manage their files and documents. They also begin to create multi-media projects, especially using music. Their word processing skills continue to advance, and they begin to use the internet for research. Finally, the concept of internet/online safety is introduced.

## **Counseling**

All of our second grade students participate in the school counseling program through regular classroom guidance lessons. This curriculum consists of structured lessons, facilitated by the school counselor in the classroom, designed to help students attain the academic, career and social/emotional competencies and to provide all students with the knowledge, attitudes and skills appropriate for their developmental level. The second grade classroom lessons build upon previous concepts of feeling identification. Lessons will focus on the physical, behavioral and cognitive aspects of "uncomfortable" feelings such as anger, worry, etc. and introduce emotional regulation skills to students. Activities will reinforce the relationship between these coping skills and effective learning, concepts of friendship, teasing and tattling, and bullying prevention. Additional opportunities for understanding diversity, inclusion and career awareness are also presented. Units are flexible and may vary in order based on student needs and schedules.