

While not representing ALL the concepts and skills we teach, these are the performance indicators we are committing to teach for MASTERY at each level. These skills build on those previously mastered and lay the foundation for learning in later schooling and throughout life. We expect that every student will demonstrate mastery of these skills. We will gather sufficient evidence to provide proof of their learning, and communicate their performance with students and families.



## Parents'/Guardians' Guide to Second Grade

This guide provides an overview of what your student will learn by the end of second grade. It focuses on the key skills your child will learn in each of the different subject areas, which will build a strong foundation for success as your child progresses through school. The student outcomes outlined in this document reflect the Illinois Learning Standards as they are published at this time, which includes incorporating the Common Core Standards for English/Language Arts and Mathematics. As the Illinois Learning Standards undergo revision to reflect the development of new standards in additional subjects, our curriculum will also be revised to support additions or changes to the Illinois Learning Standards. If your child is meeting these end-of-the-year expectations, he or she should be well prepared for the next level of schooling.

### Why Are Academic Standards Important?

Academic standards are important because they help set clear and consistent expectations for students, parents/guardians, and teachers; build a child's knowledge and skills; and help set high goals for all students. Having clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed.

### How Can I Help My Child?

Use this guide to help build a relationship with your child's teacher. Talk regularly with his or her teacher about how your child is doing.

At home, you can play an important role in setting high expectations and supporting your child in meeting them. Work with your child's teacher to identify opportunities for additional learning or ways you can support your child in their schooling.

This Guide Includes:

- An overview of some of the key concepts and skills your child will learn in second grade
- Ideas for activities to help your child learn at home
- Topics of discussion for talking to your child's teacher about his or her progress

*Preface and support material adapted from "Parents' Guide to Student Success" published by the National Parent-Teacher Association*

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**English/Language Arts:** Students in second grade will build their skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. Your child will continue to learn and practice rules for recognizing the sounds that make up words and learn new concepts – such as root words– that help them figure out the meaning of new words. Your child will also learn to think about what he or she reads and talk about the main ideas of stories and informational books. Your child will practice the use of newly learned words and phrases as they express their ideas through writing. As your child writes and speaks, he or she will become more attentive to the appropriate use language in formal and informal situations; this includes using complete sentences and spelling most words correctly in their writing.

**A sample of the skills your child will be working on**

**Reading:**

- Using knowledge of patterns and structures within words to read new words
- Reading second grade high frequency words
- Reading aloud grade level text with accuracy and fluency so as to support comprehension
- Paying close attention to details, including illustrations and graphics, in stories and books to answer who, what, where, when, why, and how questions
- Determining the lesson or moral of stories, fables, and folktales
- Retelling key information or ideas from books they read, media, or books read aloud
- Using text features such as captions, bold print, subheadings, glossaries, indexes and electronic menus and icons to locate key facts or information efficiently
- Following a sequence of events, details, and ideas in a variety of texts; summarizing events
- Comparing characters, settings, plots, problem/solutions, main ideas and events within and across stories and informational texts

**Writing:**

- Writing on one topic (including writing an opinion) using appropriate writing conventions (capitalization, end marks, commas, linking words) with guidance.
- Writing stories that include a short sequence of events and a clear beginning, middle, and end
- Applying grade level self- editing strategies
- Participating in shared research projects
  - Gather information related to a topic
  - Generate questions for investigation
  - Identify text to support a point
  - Record observations
  - Sort and categorize information (graphs, charts, pictures)

**Speaking and Listening:**

- Participating in discussions about topics being studied
  - Respond appropriately to statements and questions
  - Contribute relevant, appropriate information to conversations and discussions
  - Demonstrate courtesy and respect for others' rights and points of view

**Language Usage:**

- Using grade level grammar, mechanics, and conventions appropriately
- Using conventional spelling for words taught in class and appearing in core programs
- Comparing formal and informal uses of English
- Classifying and categorize words into sets and groups (function, feature, category)
- Determining the meaning of a new word formed by adding a prefix or suffix to a known word

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**Mathematics:** Your child will build on the number sense acquired in first grade and improve speed and accuracy adding and subtracting numbers two-digit numbers. Another important goal in second grade is to understand what the digits mean in a three-digit number (hundreds, tens, ones). Your child will also build expertise with solving addition and subtraction word problems. Mastering addition and subtraction at second grade is important so that your child is ready to begin studying multiplication, division, and fractions in third grade.

**A sample of the skills your child will be working on**

**Critical Focus Areas: extending understanding of base-ten notation; building fluency with addition and subtraction; using standard units of measure; and describing and analyzing shapes**

- Applying understanding of models of numbers (combine or separate sets and use number lines), relationships and properties of number (like place value), and properties of addition (commutative and associative) to efficiently add and subtract
- Quickly and accurately adding and subtracting numbers within one to 20
- Representing, estimating, and solving one- and two-step word problems involving addition and subtraction within 100
- Using repeated addition to build a foundation for multiplication
- Understanding place value (ones, tens, hundreds) and compare 2- and 3-digit numbers, using  $>$ ,  $=$ , and  $<$  symbols to record comparison; and using understanding of place value to add and subtract three-digit numbers
- Measuring and estimating lengths in standard units
- Telling time to the nearest 5 minutes, using a.m. and pm.
- Solving word problems involving measurement (money, weight, and length)
- Organizing, representing, interpreting, and explaining data in tables, charts, and graphs containing up to four categories
- Building, drawing, and analyzing 2D and 3D shapes to build a foundation for volume, area, and geometry in later grades
  - Recognize and draw shapes having specified attributes
  - Partition circles and rectangles into 2, 3, and 4 equal shares

**Science:** Science instruction in second grade continues to build on your child's natural curiosity. The focus is on close observation, questioning, and data collection. Students are encouraged to think and act like scientists.

**A sample of the skills your child will be working on**

- Using basic science tools to predict, collect, describe, record, interpret data and summarize findings
- Comparing seasonal and weather changes
- Knowing instruments used to measure weather changes
- Knowing the different classifications of animals
- Explaining how plants and animals needs for survival are met by specific habitats
- Describing the properties of force, motion, and energy

**Social Sciences: Social Sciences:** Your child will expand their understanding about the world and their place in it. They will study broad topics like Communities Near and Far and Geography and Map Skills.

**A sample of the skills your child will be working on**

- Explain rights and responsibilities of citizens in local, state, and national governments
- Compare local and global communities, customs, and traditions
- Understand that trade or wages/ money are exchanged for work
- Explain why consumers make choices
- Identify individuals who have contributed to significant historical events
- Compare community life in the past and present
- Read, interpret and use a variety of maps
- Describe how different customs and traditions from around the world have become a part of American life
- Understand the roles and responsibilities of individuals in groups

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**Physical Development/Health:** The goal of physical development and health programming is physical fitness for all students. Second grade students will explore the topics of fitness, wellness, teamwork, and cooperation in building a foundation of skills that will enable them to lead healthy and physically active lifestyles.

**A sample of the skills your child will be working on**

- Combining two or more movement skills and/or spatial concepts to problem-solve physical tasks involving balance and control
- Applying rules, procedures, practices, and strategies for moving safely during physical activities
- Participating in health-related fitness activities and differentiate between risks and benefits of these health-related fitness activities
- Communicating practices to others that promote healthy living, promote safety and prevent illness
- Discussing the value of good health habits (sleep, nutrition, hygiene, relationships).
- Recognizing relationships between body parts (joints, muscles, bones)

**Fine Arts:** Your child will explore the four art forms (dance, drama, music, and visual art) as a means of promoting creativity and self-expression. Students will build knowledge of the arts, arts skills, and an appreciation of the arts a means of communicating ideas and feelings related to the time in which they are created.

**A sample of the skills your child will be working on**

- Combining arts elements and principals to express an idea or solve a creative problem
- Using arts vocabulary to talk about works of art in the four arts disciplines
- Observing and responding to the arts (dance, drama, music, visual art) in a respectful manner.

**Social/Emotional Learning:** Your child will acquire the knowledge and skills needed to recognize and manage his or her emotions, demonstrate caring and concern for others, develop positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

**A sample of the skills your child will be working on**

- Recognizing emotions and how they are linked to behavior.
- Controlling impulsive behavior; practicing self-control
- Identifying personal strengths and challenges. Setting personal goals for school behavior and academic performance.
- Identifying problems and conflicts commonly experienced by peers and discussing how to solve them.
- Negotiating and resolving conflicts.
- Respecting the rights and property of self and others
- Accepting suggestions and opportunity for improvement

**Technology:** Students will apply the use of technology to solve problems, create projects, collaborate, and extend their learning in all subjects.

**A sample of the skills your child will be working on**

- Using a variety of digital tools and resources to complete a variety of content-specific tasks and investigations with teacher guidance
- Using simulations and graphic organizers to deepen understanding
- Performing research-related tasks with teacher guidance (such as locating information, using keywords, using an electronic encyclopedia and card catalog)
- Recognizing age-appropriate issues related to the use of technology and computers
- Performing basic functions on a computer like creating, naming and saving a new document; printing a document; identifying sources of help; locating letters, numbers, and function keys on a keyboard

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### Helping your Child Learn at Home

- Try to carve out a quiet place to study, and carve out time every day when your child can concentrate on his or her studies without distractions from friends or family.
- Sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 – 30 minutes while he or she does homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on and help you be the first to know if he or she needs help with a specific topic.
- Read with your child every day and encourage your child to read to you or others.
- Have your child write a thank you note or letter to family or friends.
- Ask your librarian for books that relate to your child's interests or hobbies, or for books that you and your child can read together. Ask your child to explain what he or she has read to you, another family member, or a friend.
- Look for "word problems" in real life.
- Compare the cost of an item your child wants to the amount of money your child actually has. Ask them to determine the difference and make a plan for purchasing the item.
- Ask your child questions like "How many more?" or "How many are left?"
- Play "draw a shape": Ask your child to draw specific shapes, or to color in  $\frac{1}{2}$ , or  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a rectangle or circle.

### Tips for Talking with Your Child's Teacher

- Keep the conversation focused on a few critical areas, like:
  - building foundational knowledge in all subjects through reading and listening
  - reading grade level stories and books with understanding and fluency
  - using understanding of place value to add and subtract
  - solving more challenging addition and subtraction word problems
  - solving word problems involving time, money, length and weight
- Ask to see a sample of your child's work. Ask the teacher questions such as:
  - Is this piece of work meeting the expectations?
  - Is my child on track?
  - How can I support my child in this area?
  - Are there resources outside the classroom to help his or her learning in a particular area?

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