

2nd Grade Core Academic Subjects

Project Based Learning

Throughout the year, students work on projects for an extended period of time (between 4-6 weeks). Students work together to answer real-world or complex questions and create projects to display their learning. Each project is based on science or social studies standards and incorporate the reading, writing, and math skills outlined further below.

2nd graders will dive into the following projects:

Social Studies

Now and Long Ago:

- Students learn about how different groups have migrated throughout history.
- Students research their own ancestry and create a presentation for their peers comparing life now to long ago.

Imagination Nation:

- Students are able to identify the essential map elements and locate and identify countries, oceans, Great Lakes, major rivers, and mountain ranges. Students will learn about urban, suburban, and rural communities.
- Students learn about the ways in which groups and nations interact with one another to try to resolve problems in such areas as trade, cultural contacts, treaties, diplomacy, and military force.

Heroes of the Past:

- Students learn about how laws are made at the local and country level as well as learn about the judicial system and what happens when laws are broken.
- Students research historical figures and study their historical impact

Invention Convention:

- Students explore the role and relations of buyers and consumers and supply and demand.
- Students create their own invention and investigate how to sell their “product/service” in an imaginary economy.

Science:

Land Changes:

- Matter has 3 forms: solid, liquid, gas. How do we get from one state to the other and what are molecules doing at each state.
- Students create structures to withstand and/or prevent fast and slow land changes.

Biome in a Bottle:

- Life cycles of different animals and plants
- Traits of plants and animals that are genetic and forces that influence a plant or animals characteristics
- Students research and create a biome in a bottle emphasizing the diversity of living things.

Plants and Pollinators:

- Rock, water, plants, and soil provide many resources, including food, fuel, and building materials, that humans use. The sun provides energy in the form of light.
- Students become experts on different pollinators, and the process of pollination. Students will grow plants, and create projects detailing all they learn.

Save our Oceans:

- Understanding why we recycle, how we can create a lesser impact in our daily lives, and the importance of trees.
- Students learn about the threats to our oceans and ocean animals. They gain information in how they can help with this environmental problem.

Language Arts

By second grade, students begin to discuss their reading as it pertains to their own experience. Writing Journals are introduced and daily writing exercises improve their handwriting and ability to communicate with words. Goals in the different language arts areas include:

Spelling/Phonics

Students are introduced to new phonics skills, explore the phonics patterns, and complete activities with the words.

Cursive

Students complete a year-long unit of learning cursive handwriting. By the end of the year students are able to read and write in cursive. A few letters will be introduced each week, starting with lowercase, and practiced extensively in class.

Grammar/Mechanics

We focus on a specific grammar and mechanics concept each week. In class, students will practice using these concepts in their own writing as well as editing others' writing.

Comprehension

Comprehension strategies will be taught throughout the year through stories read aloud in class and discussed as a whole-class. Follow-up activities will be completed in class to solidify these concepts. In addition to explicit strategy instruction, we will read chapter books in class together, of varied genres, and continue to use learned strategies to understand the text.

Reading Fluency

Students are regularly assessed to find their instructional reading levels. Students read in small small groups to practice phonics, vocabulary, and comprehension concepts that they need more practice with. This allows students to move along at their own pace and to really focus on their individual needs as a reader. Leveled reading books are used for this activity.

Writing

Students are exposed to many different types of writing throughout the year. We work on completing the stages of the writing process with different genres including narrative, autobiography, informational, opinion, poetry and persuasive writing. By the end of the year, students are able to write multi-paragraph pieces using all of the concepts we have learned throughout the year.

Math

2nd grade math students at Adda Clevenger build on a solid foundation of math concepts covered in kindergarten and first grade. Our program teaches math in a sequence, using age and grade appropriate math activities to progressively build understanding, skills, and confidence. Through these activities we develop conceptual understanding beyond the rote learning of arithmetic skills. In second grade, students will cover all the objectives for second grade and move on to touch on the Grade Three learning objectives.

-Create, read, and answer questions related to pictographs, bar graphs, line graphs, and tally marks. A review of addition and subtraction math facts will be built into this. Students will explore word problems and problem solving.

-Place value to 1 million in standard form and word form. Comparing and manipulating these numbers.

-Time to the minute, elapsed time, calendar, and practical application of time.

-A review of 1st grade multi-digit addition working up to 4-digit addition with regrouping. There will also be a strong emphasis on word problems.

-Add coin and paper values, making change, word problems, and practical application of money.

-A review of 1st grade multi-digit subtraction working up to 4-digit subtraction with regrouping. There will also be a strong emphasis on word problems.

-Learn the concept of multiplication, then moving into the memorization of facts through 12 and application to word problems. Beginning to multiply multi-digit numbers.

-Learn the concept of division, in relation to multiplication. Application to word problems and beginning to memorize facts.

-Solid figures, line segments, angles, symmetry, perimeter, area, volume, coordinates.

-Writing fractions, equivalent fractions, comparing, ordering and estimating fractions, mixed numbers.

-Length (inches, feet, yards, miles, centimeters), capacity (cup, pint, quart, gallon, liter), weight (ounces, grams, pounds), temperature (Fahrenheit, Celsius), word problems and practical use of all measurement types.

Throughout the year our students learn to make decisions about how to approach a problem, check results, explain their reasons, and justify what they did. They will use strategies, skills and concepts in finding solutions and express solutions clearly using the appropriate mathematical notation. The objective of our program are met in a warm, small group environment that encourages students to develop their critical thinking skills.

Civility

This is the time that social discussions will take place. We have class meetings on practical social issues as they arise and brainstorm ways to solve them. We also complete mini lessons on civility topics being discussed as a whole school. Students in the second grade understand that being a good citizen begins at home and involves acting in certain ways. They also learn about the purpose and importance of rules and laws in the family, classroom, school, community, state and nation. We delve into the attributes of a good citizen through examples of honesty, courage, determination, individual responsibility, and consequences.