

Second Grade Curriculum Objectives

Guardian Lutheran School

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Mission Statement

Engaging Learners, Equipping Servants, Empowering Leaders...for Christ.

A Christian Environment

- Christ-centered teaching and learning
- Daily religious instruction
- Classroom devotions
- Weekly Chapel services
- Dedicated Christian teachers
- A loving, nurturing and forgiving environment.

Religion

This grade level provides a chronological survey of God's love as He displayed it from the creation of the world through the early days of the Christian church. Students will learn how their loving God cared for His people physically and spiritually; they will learn of His promises to care for them also; and they will discover ways God's love causes them to live in love with all those around them. The focus is upon JESUS, the promised Messiah of the Old Testament, the One who came in the fullness of time to fulfill the ancient promises, and the One who moved His church to witness to His love after He ascended to heaven. The basic goal in teaching Religion each day is to bring students to "see Jesus"; confront them with their need, then lead them to see their Savior, Jesus, as the Answer to that need. God's love permeates all relationships, teaching and discipline in the classroom to the best of our ability, as we grow together in grace by the Spirit's power. All objectives across the curriculum grow within this atmosphere. The children will be helped to see themselves as children of the Heavenly Father, created and dearly loved by Him. They will be helped to see themselves as sinners whom God has rescued, redeemed, forgiven, and recreated through the saving work of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. Personal self-worth and positive self-concept are always emphasized throughout the day. Memory Work is assigned twice a week and includes Bible verses, Commandments (without meanings), Apostle's Creed (without meanings), and a few Hymn verses which correlate with our units.

Art

At the second grade level, the students explore units in drawing, painting, printmaking, fiber arts, ceramics, sculpture, art history and cultural applications, and critical analysis and aesthetics.

Computer Science

Identification of basic computer parts and what they do, mouse practice and word processing tool bars are the focus of the year. We use educational software: Office 97 Word, Kid Works Deluxe and Phonics 2 to reinforce word processing skills, writing and publishing stories. Internet games and research is also introduced.

English

In second grade language, the language arts skills of listening, speaking, and writing are related to each other and to the study of language arts. This is the basis for our integrated approach. Language Arts skills are not taught in isolation of one another, rather, we utilize a functional approach where students see language skills as useful and suited to an important purpose in their lives. Grammar, usage, composition, oral communication, listening, vocabulary, spelling, and mechanics skills all are conveyed as having real value and utility in order to assure student mastery of the English language and its use.

Handwriting

D'Nealian manuscript writing is reviewed and used in written work throughout the year. Introduction of D'Nealian cursive letters and words begins at this level. Students are taught the correct formation, slant, size, shape, and spacing to enable them to progress in their writing skills. A high level of neatness and legibility is an expectation in all written work.

Math

This grade level program offers a balance of experiences-direct instruction and cooperative learning; hands-on activities and paper and pencil tasks; real-world applications along with investigations, projects, math games, and basic facts practice. The goal is to make math "come alive", be relevant, and for the concepts to ultimately make sense to the children. We begin by reviewing and expanding on patterns and number facts, addition and subtraction facts through 12 and understanding place value through 100. We progress to facts through 20 and then to addition and subtraction of 2-digit numbers with and without re-grouping. The next concept progresses to place value through 1000 followed by addition and subtraction practice of 3-digit numbers with and without regrouping. The concepts of time, calendar and money; geometry and fractions; and measurement are practiced. Multiplication and division readiness is begun as time permits at the end of the school year.

Music

Music is introduced in second grade as enjoyment and as a means for the children to use their God-given talents to His praise and honor. The children learn to use their voices to the best of their own ability, with encouragement to participate also in movement and rhythmic activities. An opportunity is offered for second graders to participate in Children's Choir as an elective, which takes place as part of the weekly schedule.

Physical Education

In second grade, muscles and coordination are becoming more developed, which allows students to enjoy many motor and rhythmic movements. Foundation skills are taught with the goal of preparing students for a variety of athletic competition. Simple games and relays are played and team sports become more important at this age. Leadership skills become more defined, and the idea of good sportsmanship begins to evolve. Emphasis is placed on our bodies as God's special creation and we are to take good care of them and use them to God's glory.

Reading

We utilize a literature-based reading basal program. It reflects the connection between reading, writing, speaking, listening, and thinking. As students read and respond to literature, they develop the ability to become independent, strategic users of language skills and strategies. Students are engaged through a variety of reading experiences that reflect authentic, natural reading. Every day, students enlist a number of strategies to help them before, during, and after reading. Rather than being taught in isolation, strategies and skills are gathered into strategy clusters and taught with meaningful, real literature. Author studies, theme studies, and genre studies help students develop understandings related to all areas of the curriculum. As they plan, comprehend and monitor, and look back and respond to what they read, students gain the ability to apply reading strategies and skills. Many supplements to the basal program are provided such as numerous class story-times; book report projects, contests and programs, Accelerated Reader computer program, and enrichment story/theme units implemented by the teacher. Most importantly, a separate PHONICS curriculum workbook is used in conjunction with the whole Language program to review key skills and teach new skills.

Science

Second grade science is divided into studies of life science, (interactions of Living Things; What Makes me sick); physical science, (Energy and Motion; Solids, Liquids, and Gases); and earth science, (Changes Over Time). The goal is to lead children to an understanding of essential scientific ideas rather than to a simple familiarity with isolated facts. Science education fosters an attitude of curiosity and a desire for learning. Hands-on learning activities and literature will be introduced and related to each unit of study.

Social Studies

The students are introduced to different facets of their neighborhood, community, state, and nation. Students learn that people live in different types of communities and that these communities provide services for the people who live there. They learn to recognize the responsibility individuals have to their community, state, nation and world. Map and globe skills are taught. They provide valuable information about the earth and its people. Land forms and bodies of water of the earth are studied since they influence to some degree where people choose to live. All people have needs and wants. Through the different kinds of work that people do, they make available to others a wide range of products and services. We learn that rules and laws help people get along with one another. Rules and laws identify rights and define responsibilities. Government leaders and their roles are introduced. Communication and transportation help people know and better understand themselves and the world in which they live. We study the Indians as the first Americans and how they wisely used the natural resources available to them to satisfy their basic needs. Our country's history and holidays are introduced to enable students to begin to realize and appreciate the values and beliefs that characterize American society.

Spelling

Spelling instruction targets frequently misspelled words and develops spelling skills and strategies. Spelling generalizations are practiced with the goal being proficiency; specifically sound-letter associations, word structure and words from other languages. Weekly lessons build vocabulary and writing skills. Words are studied in all content areas to extend language learning. Grammar, mechanics, and proofreading skills are reinforced. The goal is to make each student a better speller by emphasizing phonics, structure, and meaning-based spelling patterns and using resources for visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learners. The philosophy taught is that inventive spelling is useful in certain writing, but correct spelling and punctuation are expectations for across the curriculum in the majority of instances. To that end, students are encouraged to make use of their "More Words I Use When I Write" dictionaries and ask for assistance.