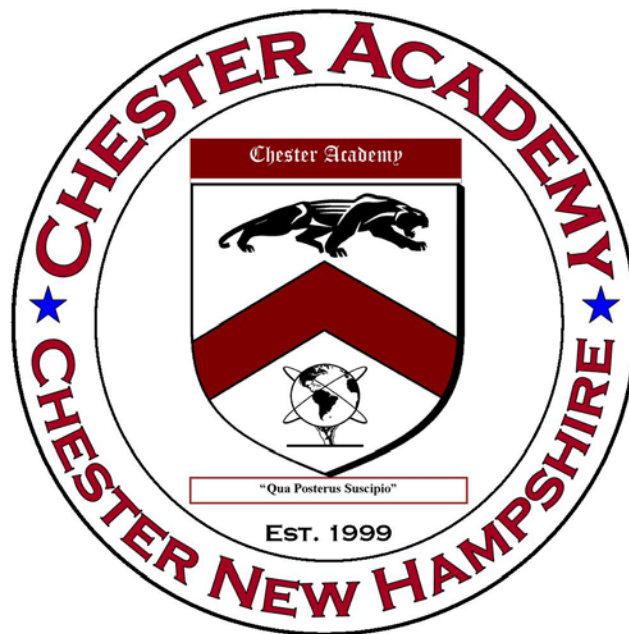


# Second Grade Curriculum Overview



Chester Academy  
2008-2009

Dear Second Grade Families,



Welcome to second grade. It will be an exciting year filled with new opportunities for learning. Please review the student expectations and suggestions for success.

Our students receive the best education possible through the cooperative efforts of home, school and community. If you have any questions please contact your child's teacher. Open communication allow us to work as a team to provide the best educational environment for your child.

We are looking forward to a great year with you and your child.

Sincerely,

The Second Grade Team

Mrs. Fontaine

Mrs. Freiburger

Mrs. Duhaime

Mrs. Leslie

**In order to promote your child's success:**

- Check your child's daily work and planner.
- Emphasize that mistakes are part of learning.
- Notify the teacher of a change in environment that would affect your child.
- Establish open communication with your child's teacher.
- Discuss homework responsibilities.
- Encourage your child's independence and responsibility as a second grader.

**Student Expectations**

**Each child will:**

- \* Be respectful of people and property.
- \* Complete and return homework assignments on time.
- \* Participate in class activities to his/her fullest potential.
- \* Demonstrate a positive attitude.
- \* Accept responsibility for his/her actions.



**Homework**

Homework at this level lays the foundation for good study skills and responsibility. The format and assignments are decided upon by the individual teacher with the expectation that assignments will take approximately twenty minutes. Homework may include regular practice and reinforcement of previously taught skills, independent assignments that enrich the school curriculum, outside reading, and math fact practice.

# Reading

The reading program at Chester Academy is based on the premise that students who are learning to read need a variety of tools to master reading skills. Immersing students in a language rich environment is the first step toward this goal and the sequential development of important basic skills including: phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension and fluency.



## Program/ Materials:

The reading program for the primary grades is the *Scott Foresman Reading Street 2007* Edition. This program provides a research-based approach to reading instruction, guided by frequent assessment, enabling teachers to plan and differentiate for individual student reading levels. *Reading Street* has an equal mix of fiction and non-fiction reading selections. The priority skills in second grade are: phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Reading materials for second grade students include: student anthologies, a classroom library of leveled readers for small group instruction, songs and rhymes, charts and graphic organizers, sound spelling cards, reader's theatre anthologies, and a workbook for practicing phonics and reading skills.

## Instructional Delivery Model:

At Chester Academy, students are involved in a 3-Tier reading model, consisting of three tiers of reading instruction. Movement through the tiers is a dynamic process, with students entering and exiting as needed. Your child will have the opportunity to be part of reading instructional groups formed with students from across the grade level. Students will work with others who have similar reading needs to ensure that instruction is a "good fit", and will provide the best opportunity for growth.

- Tier 1 - Core Classroom Instruction

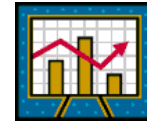
Chester Academy utilizes a core reading program grounded in scientifically based reading research. Students receive instruction in a 90 minute reading block each day, consisting of a thirty minutes of whole group instruction, followed by a sixty minute reading group time, where students are taught in 3-4 flexible small guided reading groups.

- Tier 2 - Strategic Intervention

Tier 2 is designed to further meet the needs of some students, where the core reading program is not enough. They are provided with additional small group reading instruction daily.

- Tier 3 - Intensive Intervention

A small percentage of students require more support in acquiring vital reading skills than Tier 2 instruction can provide. For these students, Tier 3 provides instruction that is more explicit, more intensive, and specifically designed to meet their individual needs



## Placement/Groupings/Assessment:

The second grade utilizes flexible grouping throughout the grade. Placement is determined by the following assessments:

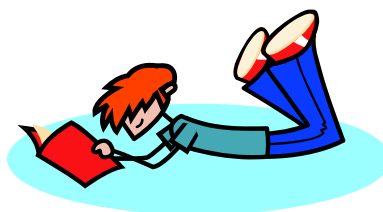
- DIBELS, which is the *Dynamic Assessment of Basic Early Literacy Skills*. This a set of standardized, individually administered measures of early literacy development. They are designed to be short (one minute) fluency measures used to regularly monitor the development of pre-reading and early reading skills.
- GRADE, providing information on decoding skills, vocabulary development, and reading comprehension.
- Running Records - Each student is given a short book or passage to read aloud at his or her instructional level. The reading is timed and the teacher marks any variations from the text. The student is also asked to retell the text and answer comprehension questions.
- Scott Foresman Reading Street Assessments include: Weekly group selection tests and informal progress monitoring throughout the week, to check progress during instruction and to identify students' needs along the way.

## Reading Skill Components

Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary and Text comprehension are the four major emphasized components of reading. Introducing the right skill at the right time will maintain a systematic sequence of skill instruction.



- Phonics Skills instruction in blending sounds of letters to decode and decoding words with common word parts.
- Fluency instruction in reading with accuracy, comprehension, appropriate pace/rate; with expression/intonation; with attention to punctuation and appropriate phrasing.
- Vocabulary instruction in word recognition, word learning strategies and extend concepts and word knowledge.
- Comprehension instruction in comprehension strategies, skills and drawing conclusions/analyzing text.



## Language Arts



### Written Expression-

Students will be exposed to the six traits of writing (focus, organization, voice, word choice, sentences, and conventions.) Through the process of writing, children can progress at their own rate. Students develop the ability to express themselves through an introduction to the writing process using personal, expository, narrative, descriptive, and persuasive writing. Practice is ongoing in developing the following skills:

- Writing complete sentences
- Journal and story writing
- Writing letters
- Paragraph formation
- Responses to reading
- Writing Poetry

**Spelling-** Spelling encourages the recognition of sequential letter/sound patterns along with high frequency words. Formal spelling tests and weekly tests develop these on going skills.

**Mechanics-**Through the use of "Daily Fix-its", in the Scott Foresman Reading program, students practice skills needed to improve the mechanics of their writing. Punctuation, capitalization and usage skills are practiced daily to help maintain and reinforce good writing skills.

### Handwriting



Handwriting is assessed for proper letter formation and spacing with an emphasis on neatness and legibility. Practice at home is encouraged. Children should avoid practicing cursive writing before formal instruction. This will help prevent the child from incorrectly forming letters. There may be a brief introduction to cursive at the end of second grade.

## Mathematics



The elementary level uses the Scott Foresman – Addison Wesley Mathematics program.

The Scott Foresman program provides for many exciting math opportunities that meet the needs of all learners. Each lesson begins by activating prior knowledge. Then the new skill is introduced and students are given time to demonstrate understanding through hands-on practice, often involving manipulatives. Throughout the lesson there are opportunities to assess students' learning. The program also includes ideas for "Early Finishers" to enrich the child's understanding of the skill being taught.

The Scott-Foresman program teaches more than just math facts. Students are taught test-taking strategies through each chapter's section entitled, "Test Talk." A literature component appears in each chapter along with a writing component. Students practice problem-solving through the "Problem of the Day," the Discovery Channel School videos entitled, "Discover Math in Your World" and the Dorling Kindersley book pages throughout

their workbooks. In addition, the Scott-Foresman program provides a letter home to families for each chapter to help families practice and reinforce what is being taught at school. There is also a website available (<http://scottforesman.com>) with virtual manipulatives and exciting opportunities and games.

Throughout each chapter, students are assessed in three different ways: the daily check, the "Think About It" and the diagnostic checkpoint. There are also cumulative reviews every three chapters.

Second Grade Math will focus on the following concepts:

- Understanding Addition and Subtraction
- Fact Strategies for Addition and Subtraction to 18
- Place Value to 100 and Money
- Mental Math: Addition and Subtraction
- Two-Digit Addition
- Two-Digit Subtraction
- Geometry and Fractions
- Time, Data and Graphs
- Measurement and Probability
- Numbers to 1,000
- Addition and Subtraction of Three-Digit Numbers
- Introduction to Understanding Multiplication and Division



## **Social Studies**

The focus of the Social Studies curriculum for second grade targets socialization skills students need to work and play cooperatively. Social Studies is integrated into all curriculum areas. The second grade Social Studies curriculum encompasses The World and It's People.

### **Students will be able to demonstrate:**

- Socialization and Manners
- The responsibilities, rules and rights of citizenship
- Identify the seven continents and four oceans
- Read a map using a key to understand symbols and directions
- Demonstrate knowledge of holidays/traditions around the world
- Explain how immigration contributes to our country



Students will have opportunities to expand these concepts through such activities as stories, discussions, field trips, guest speakers, dramatics, music and theme units.

Proper social skills are vital to the success of every lesson shared by all. Recognition and respect for individual differences and self discipline are modeled, experienced and practiced.



## Social skills include:

- Learning to accept and respect others by working together
- Identifying ways to solve conflicts
- Recognizing the importance of fairness and cooperation
- Developing a sense of responsibility
- Learning to make choices and to understand consequences
- Recognizing that mistakes are a part of learning
- Developing and understanding of the need for rules and standards of acceptable behavior

## Science



Second grade students will investigate Space and Sky, Life Cycles (Butterflies), Earth Composition, electricity, magnets, animals in their habitat, and plants. Core concepts in life, physical, and earth sciences will be studied. Students will develop scientific process skills of observing, communicating, classifying, measuring, predicting and experimenting. Through hands-on activities, children explore various scientific concepts and begin to understand how science relates to the world we live in.

### Students will:

- Use drawings, oral language and simple writing to record observations and data
- Recognize basic patterns of the position of the sun and moon during the seasons
- Identify parts of plants and growth needs
- Describe the physical properties of the Earth's surface
- Experiment with magnetic energy and items that a magnet can attract or repel
- Investigate and report on animals and butterflies and how they survive in their habitat
- Experiment with and create a simple circuit
- Explore, observe, and identify different clouds and weather patterns



## Integrated Arts

### Art



Students will continue to strengthen skills in drawing, painting, cutting, printmaking, weaving and the use of clay. The art curriculum includes several integrated projects with the core curriculum, including projects on the Rain Forest, bats, Antarctica and several cultural projects. Students will be exposed to a variety of artists throughout history, such as Norman Rockwell and several Renaissance Artists. Students will also learn about art elements, design principles and composition.

## Library/ Media Center

The goal of the library media center program is to ensure that students become independent users of ideas and information. Sharing stories through read aloud is an integral part of the program. Second grade students begin to understand the way fiction



and non-fiction materials are organized on the shelves.

Students will develop an awareness of:

- computer catalog
- how books are ordered on the shelves
- fiction and non-fiction materials
- other resources in the Media Center, such as magazines and audio visual materials.
- parts of a book
- award winning books such as Caldecott and Newbery books



## Music

Students in Grade 2 will increase their confidence in using their singing voices, both in a group and individually. They will be exposed to music from a variety of cultures and styles. In second grade, children will expand on what they learned in music last year, and will begin singing and playing slightly more difficult songs. They will also learn some new rhythmic notation, and how each value relates to music and math. Again, lessons are taught through the use of instruments, singing, dancing, musical games, and body percussion.



## Physical Education

Physical activity provides opportunities for enjoyment, challenge, self-expression and social interaction. In the second grade curriculum, students will continue to develop skills in locomotion, teamwork, sportsmanship, safety awareness, manipulatives and fitness and fitness concepts.

## Computer Education

Computer literacy is integrated throughout the second grade curriculum. The second grade team and the technology integration specialist plan lessons which incorporate the computer literacy requirements and enhance what is being taught in the classroom. Second graders use appropriate software to word process, illustrate stories, and as graphic organizers. They use the Internet to do guided searches on topics that are included in their science and social studies curriculum. The students learn the basics of keyboarding, including the home row, proper posture and finger position. Second graders continue to work on mouse control and learn about computer functions such as input and output. Students at Chester Academy have access to the computer lab and the wireless lab. Both labs are networked and linked to the Internet. (Students must have a signed Acceptable Use Policy on file before using the Internet with the technology department.) Each student's work is saved in a folder for their digital portfolio. The digital portfolio contains artifacts that demonstrate use of technology in all the curriculum content areas.



## **Enrichment**

Second graders have enrichment as a special once a week. The focus of this class will be on creative reading, writing and integrated units of study

## **GIFTED OR TALENTED AT CHESTER ACADEMY (G.O.T.C.H.A.)**

Talent Pool classes are offered for recommended students all year in Math and Language Arts in Grades 2 - 5.

These classes are offered for students who show talent in one or both of these areas.

### ***MATH:***

Students will be engaged in problem solving, student-directed explorations of geometry, algebra, fractions, logical thinking and money. Units of study will often result in a creative product with real-life learning applications.

### ***LANGUAGE ARTS:***

Students will read, write and work on thematic units that involve individual creativity and critical thinking. Several units will use art as a basis for exploring literacy.

**Eligibility** Students are recommended for these programs by classroom teachers. Parents who wish their child to be considered for the program should contact his or her classroom teacher.

## **P.A.W.S**

The Chester Academy PBIS (PAWS) Program incorporates research based methods to teach and reinforce a positive attitude, responsibility, safety at work and play and showing respect for self and others. Paw print stickers are given out to acknowledge the students when they exhibit the target behaviors. Focusing upon and reinforcing these behaviors help build social skills throughout our school.