



WISSAHICKON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Elementary Curriculum Information for Parents

Grade 2

Second Grade is an exciting time for students. There are multiple learning opportunities offered throughout the school day with a strong emphasis on developing the whole child: academically, socially, and emotionally.

The classroom schedules have been designed to create large, uninterrupted blocks of instructional time; in addition, the 30-minute, “Practice, Intervention and Enrichment”, known as PIE time, will allow for further differentiation and individualization of instruction for all students. Our K-5 schools follow a 12-day rotation cycle for the Encore classes, which includes Art, Music, Health and Physical Education, Library, and School Counseling. Recess is a time when our students take a break from learning in the classroom in order to engage in more informal interactions with their peers. Recess supports the development of social skills and the overall health and well-being of our students. During this time, students engage in unstructured play and make choices, develop rules for play, and practice important social skills such as sharing, taking turns, being a good sport, cooperating, listening to others, and solving conflicts.

If you have any questions regarding your child’s educational program, please contact your child’s teacher for more information.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The English Language Arts program in Wissahickon is an intensive exploration of oral, visual, and technological communication. In second grade, students follow the language and literacy framework, which provides a structure to help students construct meaning in their lives through reading and writing. Skills taught in second grade include:

- Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words;
- Read with accuracy and fluency to support comprehension;
- Identify the main idea of a multi-paragraph text and the focus of specific paragraphs within the text;
- Explain the point of view of the author;
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in grade level text, including multiple-meaning words;
- Recount stories and determine their central message, lesson, or moral;
- Read and comprehend literary nonfiction and informational text on grade level, reading independently and proficiently;
- Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges;
- Read and comprehend literature on grade level, reading independently and proficiently;
- Write informative texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information;
- Write an opinion with reasons related to the opinion;
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or event;
- Demonstrate a grade appropriate command of the conventions of standard English grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.
- Use correct manuscript letter formation when completing written tasks. In January, begin to learn and practice the formation of letters in cursive.

Wissahickon uses *Wonders*, by McGraw-Hill, as the core English-Language Arts program. Using a rich range of diverse print and digital media, *Wonders* provides the instructional support and materials to teach the rigor, intent, and depth of the Pennsylvania Core Standards.



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MATHEMATICS

The Wissahickon Mathematics program is a dynamic curriculum integrating the computation, problem-solving, and the use of manipulatives and mathematical tools. Students in second grade are taught the following concepts:

- Use place-value concepts to compare three digit numbers;
- Use place-value concepts to read, write, and skip count to 1000;
- Draw two-and three-dimensional shapes, measure and estimate lengths in standard units using appropriate tools;
- Tell and write time to the nearest five minutes;
- Interpret data using line plots, picture graphs, and bar graphs;
- Use addition and subtraction to solve problems involving length

As the core Mathematics program, Wissahickon uses the *Everyday Math 4*, developed at the University of Chicago. To help develop students' mathematics fact fluency, the district currently subscribes to *First in Math*, a web-based program that encourages students to practice basic mathematics facts while also honing their problem-solving skills.

ENCORE SUBJECTS

Second grade students also study Art, Health and Physical Education, Library, and Music. Additionally, all students have the opportunity to work with our School Counselor as they develop their academic, career, and social skills. Students attend these encore classes on a weekly basis.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students in second grade follow an integrated study of the wider world and United States community by exploring history, geography, economics, and civics and government through topics such as: *Governing the People*, *The World Around Us*, *Using Our Resources*, *People Long Ago*, *A World of Many People*, and *People in the Marketplace*. During Social Studies, students are engaged in classroom discussions, simulations and explorations, literature selections, digital learning, research, as well as reading and writing assignments.

SCIENCE

Wissahickon second graders study a Science curriculum based on three hands-on kits: Motion, Rocks, and Life Cycles. During these explorations, students act as scientists following the scientific process, making hypotheses, and testing their conjectures. They revise their thinking based on experiments, collecting and organizing data, and then analyzing that data to develop new understandings. It is an inquiry-based program supplemented by both related literature and informational texts.