

## *Overview of the Second Grade Curriculum*

**RELIGION:** Finding God, Loyola Press.

Emphasis in second grade is placed on the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Students develop an understanding of the Mass, an understanding of community, and the importance of prayer. They recognize the Trinity as God, our loving Father, Jesus, our friend who gives us the gift of Himself, and the Holy Spirit, our guide to serve others. Students will understand the call to live their faith and “walk in the footsteps of Christ”. In addition to the curriculum, students prepare for their First Holy Communion, by participating in our parent-led “Communion Workshop”, sacramental retreats, and frequent visits from our clergy. Second graders also meet regularly with their Eighth grade prayer buddies to work, pray, and grow in their faith.

**READING:** Reading Fundamentals, Schoolwide.

Reading Fundamentals has a central mission to develop, expand, and enhance the skills, strategies, and tools students can use to make meaning of and interact with text. Reading Fundamentals Units of Study exist inside a balanced literacy framework. Within this framework, there are opportunities to read to students (mentor texts), to read with students (shared texts), and to have students read independently (books and other texts at their independent reading levels). Students read and work at their assessed skill level. During the year students will read and analyze nonfiction and fiction texts. In addition to expanding their vocabulary, students will practice inferring, summarizing, and questioning. They will complete graphic organizers that identify information such as basic story elements, cause and effect, main idea and supporting details, as well as character analysis. Students will also participate in an author study, book club, readers' theater, and poetry study.

**ENGLISH:** Grammar Macmillan-McGraw Hill.

Students continue to develop proper grammar skills by practicing sentence structure, punctuation, and the use of verbs and adjectives. These skills are put to use in a variety of writing assignments in which students learn the writing process of drafting, editing, and final copies. As the year progresses writing skills grow from complete sentences to paragraphs to stories and reports.

**SPELLING:** Spelling Connections Zaner-Bloser

This year we are excited to introduce a new spelling curriculum. *Spelling Connections* is not your typical spelling program. Backed by extensive research, it uses carefully-curated spelling lists to teach patterns, build vocabulary, and develop the skills students need to become proficient spellers. With built-in differentiated instruction and assessments, we can meet students' individual needs while ensuring the whole class is learning essential concepts and acquiring critical skills. Proficient spelling leads to improved skills in other areas, including stronger readers, more fluent writers, and thinkers.

**MATHEMATICS:** My Math and Simple Solutions

Our math curriculum is personalized for the way students learn. Lessons are differentiated to meet each child's needs in the areas of addition and subtraction, money, telling time, fractions, geometry, measurement, and problem solving. Daily practice with Simple Solutions allows students to continuously work on grade-level skills with weekly assessment opportunities. Students also become fluent with their math facts by participating in Rocket Math twice a week.

**SCIENCE:** Students explore our world through the study of Life Science, Weather, Physical Science, and Health. They learn to question, make predictions, and analyze results through hands-on and virtual experimentation.

**SOCIAL STUDIES:** Houghton-Mifflin.

In second grade students deepen their understanding of communities and how they work together. They recognize different traditions and cultures from around the world as well as regional changes in climate and different landforms. Students will be introduced to American history and U.S. government. In addition we incorporate current events through weekly editions of Scholastic News.

**HANDWRITING:** Zaner-Bloser

This program highlights the "Keys to Legibility" which include shape, size, and spacing. We begin the year reviewing and perfecting manuscript printing before introducing the accurate strokes needed for cursive.

**HOMEWORK:** We strive to develop good homework habits in second grade. Students are responsible for all unfinished daily work to be completed and turned in the following day. They will receive a spelling list each Monday to study for Friday's assessment. Students will also be required to read 20 minutes a day and complete a weekly reading log. Additional homework will be sent home to reinforce skills and further develop study and organizational skills.