

Curriculum Overview – Second Grade

BIBLE COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The aim of Bible class is to present the Bible as God's self revelation, showing His character and His dealings with men on the basis of His covenant promises. In second grade the students study stories and passages from the **New Testament**, but also review the creation story through the exile from Jerusalem from the first grade. The red thread of redemption, which is God's sovereign work, culminates in the life and teachings of Jesus. The Book of James gives the students a knowledge base for Christian living. At the second grade level Bible continues to be non-graded. The lesson content is introduced through the telling and retelling of Bible stories.

LANGUAGE ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

ENGLISH / SPELLING

At each grade level the development of oral and written language skills is primary and is advanced with age-appropriate activities. Language is the vehicle through which a communication system is developed. The second grade student continues the journey in applying the tools of language, grammar, correct usage, mechanics and spelling, to enhance oral and written skills. Instruction in the writing process is continued with every other unit of study developing the skills of expressive language. The students continue to study the parts of speech and correct grammar usage.

PENMANSHIP

The skills learned and practiced in second grade penmanship are an important factor in the students' writing skills throughout life. The technical aspects of good penmanship; correct letter formation, uniform slant, uniform size, correct spacing, line quality, and overall neatness, are taught and practiced daily. By the end of second grade, students have practiced these writing skills daily, and expectations have been set that follow the student through elementary school.

READING AND PHONICS

Learning letters and their sounds is the best way to learn to read, thus the teaching of phonics is continued in the second grade as a means of solidifying the student's ability to apply phonic rules to attack new words. The skill of reading, i.e. getting meaning from the printed word, has its beginning with a strong phonics program. Phonics is a tool used in becoming a good reader who can think and understand the printed word. This is the ultimate goal of a reading program. The books used in the teaching of reading in the second grade have been selected because of the Biblical Worldview they promote. The second grade book selections promote Biblical truths that nurture the students through the excellent literature and character-building themes.

HISTORY / GEOGRAPHY:

Through the study of the history of the world and the features of the earth, we can see illustrations of God's wisdom, omnipotence, sovereignty, and benevolence. Christian philosophy, character, and attitudes as well as history concepts and geography skills are emphasized promoting a balanced approach to social studies. In the first grade the students begin their study of America. The students are introduced to simple facts about history, geography, children of the world, and great and Godly leaders of the United States. The goal is to train students to develop a love of country, to notice and appreciate ways God has blessed our great country and to learn how people work together. Oral reading skills are practiced. History at the second grade level is non-graded.

SCIENCE / HEALTH:

The focus of second grade science and health is to stimulate the students' interest in science through the wonders of God's creations. Through the introductory study of life science, earth and space science, physical science and health, the students enjoy studying themselves, plants and animals, the air we breath, moving things, and things that work together. Oral reading is emphasized in this non-graded science class.

MATH:

The math curriculum employs a traditional approach to teaching math. Traditional math

- promotes structure and order,
- expects students to learn and remember facts laying the foundations for understanding mathematical concepts,
- strengthens the mind, and
- lays the foundation for higher mathematics and higher level of abstraction.

The study of math in the second grade continues the introduction of the units of study through themes. The skills introduced in the first grade are continued with more complexity in the second grade. The goal is to build a basic knowledge of numbers and conceptually understand their relationship in problem solving. The curriculum is designed to lay a foundational understanding of the exactness of numbers and that God's principles are built upon order and absolutes that reflect a consistent methodology of interpretation.

Art, Music and Physical Education

These are enrichment classes that are part of the elementary curriculum. These classes are graded with a +, S, -. The instructors are specialists in their areas.

The physical education classes lay the foundation for life-long health and recreation. The music classes are designed to foster a love for music and the worship of God. Elementary art exposes students to the basic elements of art and art mediums. The goal is for students to learn to appreciate great art and develop the artistic talents given by their creator.