

WHAT TO EXPECT

WHEN YOUR CHILD ENTERS SECOND GRADE

Reading:

Making the “Reading to Learn” Switch

What does this mean?

- **In First Grade**, many students are in a stage referred to as “Learning to Read”. Because of this, a large focus is placed on students becoming independent, fluent readers. **Fluent readers** can read a grade level text smoothly with minimal effort to decode, or sound out, words. Once students are fluent readers their focus can be more easily shifted to comprehending a text, instead of just reading individual words within it.
- **In Second Grade**, students will be making the switch to a stage referred to as “Reading to Learn”. Although we will continue to grow your child’s fluency and decoding ability, a heavier focus will be placed on reading comprehension. Comprehension skills will be modeled and taught throughout all content areas, such as social studies and science.

2nd Grade Reading Expectations

Students will ask and answer questions about details in a text.

Students will find the central idea of a text.

Students will recount stories.

Students will identify the theme or moral of a story.

Students will describe how characters act.

Students will learn unfamiliar words through context clues.

Students will use text features to help find and understand information in a text.

Students will identify the author's purpose for writing a text.

Students will describe how authors use sound and rhythm to add meaning to stories.

Students will identify an author's point of view.

Students will explain how images support text.

Students will describe how authors use reasons to support their ideas.

Students will compare and contrast two texts.

Throughout each unit, students will see informational text as well as literature.

Summer Tips for Reading Success

- Keep reading throughout the summer to prevent the “summer slide”. The best way to increase reading fluency is to read, read, read.
- Take advantage of the free programs found through your student’s ClassLink account to practice reading comprehension.
- Make reading enjoyable!
 - Allow your student to choose books at his/her independent reading level.
 - Read a book that was turned into a movie, then watch the movie to compare and contrast.
 - Find a beginner chapter book series that your student enjoys (Owl Diaries, Dragon Master, Junie B. Jones, The Magic Treehouse, etc.).
 - Take a reading field trip to the park, beach, front yard...anywhere!

ClassLink Apps:

- **MobyMax**- Paired reading stories match a fiction text with a non-fiction text for deeper understanding.
- **Freckle**- ELA Adaptive Practice allows your child to work at his/her level through different reading domains.
- **Tumblebooks**- Use the index to search for stories in your student’s reading level, then take an AR test.

2nd Grade Math Expectations

Place Value

Students will learn to recognize that 3-digit numbers are made up of hundreds, tens, and ones. Students will need to know the value of each digit within a 3-digit number.

Data

Students will learn how to gather data, create a chart or graph to represent that information, then use the data to answer questions.

Addition & Subtraction

Students will learn multiple strategies to add and subtract 2 and 3-digit numbers with and without regrouping.

Measurement

Students will be able to solve multi-step word problems involving different amounts of money.

Students will tell and write time to the nearest five minutes.

Students will learn to measure objects using customary and metric units (inches, feet, yards, centimeters and meters).

Geometry

Students will learn to differentiate between 2-Dimensional shapes and 3-dimensional shapes based on their attributes (number of angles, sides, faces, vertices), as well as be able to partition shapes into halves, thirds, and quarters.

Summer Tips for Math Success:

- Basic Fact Fluency- Students leaving first grade should know their basic addition and subtraction facts through 10.
- Place Value- Practice place value by discussing 2-digit numbers. How many tens and ones make up that number? What number would have __ ones and __ tens?
- 2 Digit Addition & Subtraction- Have your student practice adding 2-digit numbers. Reinforce that when adding, you must add ones with ones, and tens with tens.
- Measurement- Use analog and digital clocks around your home, practice measuring with a ruler, and allow your child to count your pocket change or piggy bank money.
- Graphing & Data- Have your student generate a question and survey your family. Then, have him/her create a graph to present the data collected.

ClassLink Apps:

Freckle

MobyMax

Both programs allow your student to work on “Adaptive Math Practice” which provides your student with work at his/her level. This allows your student to be challenged in areas that they have mastered or to be retaught concepts that might need revisiting.

Both programs also have a “Fact Practice” component to help build your student’s basic fact fluency.

Writing and Language

- Students will be **writing** for a variety of reasons. Here are some tips to help get your student prepared:
 - Respond to Text- After reading a text, have your child produce a question about it. Then, have your student answer their own question in a few short sentences using detail from the text.
 - Narrative Writing- Have your student write about a favorite toy, a memory they have, or simply keep a journal throughout the summer. Encourage the student to use a lot of detail.
 - Opinion Writing- This one could be a lot of fun! Have your student write their opinion on a topic, then supply reasons to support it. Find out their opinions on their favorite at home supper, or which chores they feel should be their responsibility.
- Many of second grade's **language** skills were introduced in first grade and will continue to be reinforced. Here are some basic concepts to master over the summer:
 - Nouns- person, place, or thing
 - Adjectives- words that describe nouns
 - Pronouns- words that replace nouns
 - Verbs- action words
 - Adverbs- words that describe verbs
 - Have your student write descriptive sentences and label each noun, verb, adjective, etc. found in the sentence.

Beginning sentences with a capital letter and ending a sentence with punctuation are introduced in kindergarten and taught throughout first grade, as well. When your student writes, make sure that they are checking for these basics, too.

Science and Social Studies

Science Tips for Success:

- Have students explore topics of interest such as classifications of animals, mechanics, weather, engineering, technology, health, etc. through checking out books at the library.
- Utilize Freckle and MobyMax to build background knowledge on science concepts.
- Foster your student's sense of wonder! Talk about things that might still baffle you and model asking questions about it.
- Work in the kitchen together. So many wonderful science concepts are found right inside of our homes. Discuss temperature, tools of measurement, changes in states of matter, following steps in a sequence, classifying and categorizing foods...the possibilities are endless!

Social Studies Tips for Success:

- Point out and use different types of maps when you see them. What is the purpose of that particular type? What continents and oceans can your student identify?
- Learn about different cultures. Visit new restaurants, read about different holidays and discuss some of your own family's traditions.
- Have conversations about rules and laws with your child. What is the purpose of a rule or law? Who creates new laws? How can we be good citizens in and out of school?
- Go grocery shopping together. What does your student know about needs and wants? How do we make choices?

Testing in 2nd Grade

STAR Reading and Math

August

This first assessment gives teachers and families a snapshot of how your student is performing in order to help guide instruction.

November & January

These assessments are used to help teachers modify instruction to meet a student's needs.

May

This final score gives teachers and families an understanding of how much the student has grown throughout the course of the year, as well as areas that could be focused on over the summer.

DSBAs & Other Assessments

- District Standard Based Assessments (DSBAs) are taken at the end of each reading unit. These assessments are used to see how well a standard was mastered by students.
- Spelling and Dictation- Students will have weekly spelling tests (typically 10 words), as well as dictation sentences using that week's spelling pattern, patterns previously learned, and high frequency words.
- Math Assessments- Mid Chapter Checks are given halfway through a chapter to check for understanding of skills before moving forward. Math tests are given at the completion of each math chapter.
- Science and Social Studies- Each unit will have lesson quizzes as well as end of unit assessments.