

ST. ANNE & ST. JUDE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Second Grade Curriculum

Language Arts

English Grammar/Writing: The second grade uses the *Rowland Program* as a foundation for Language Arts. This series provides a comprehensive program of English grammar and writing skills and gives the students opportunities to improve their writing and oral language skills. In addition to this program, the students are challenged every day to write responses to given prompts in their personal journals.

Reading: The second grade reading program consists of three parts.

- The *SRA Reading Laboratory* is used to practice skills and provides individual progress for each student. Students advance reading levels at their own pace.
- The *Rowland Reading* program is a curriculum using multiple components: word attack, comprehension, and fluency. It teaches reading with spelling and writing giving children true mastery of their language.
- The third part to the reading program is children's literature. Students read books for enjoyment as the teacher emphasizes fluent reading and vocabulary development. Throughout the year, students practice identifying prefixes and suffixes, drawing conclusions, finding the main idea, and understanding figurative language. Students also gain skill in identifying details, facts versus opinions, cause and effect, and character traits. Students demonstrate their reading and writing skills through book reports. In addition, each student makes a class presentation each month. The best way for students to improve their reading skills is to spend time reading. Therefore, students keep a chapter book in their desks at all times and participate in open reading time each day. Students may use books from home, the school library, or the public library. During the open reading time, the teacher evaluates each student's reading progress.

Spelling: The weekly spelling list words are taken from the *Rowland Program*. Students practice the spelling, usage, and meanings of the words throughout the week. Daily spelling and dictation practices are given, helping the children in spelling mastery. By the end of second grade, children can read and spell 760 of the 1,200 K-8 Sitton spelling words as well as many, many others.

Handwriting (Manuscript and Cursive): The students continue practicing the *Zaner- Bloser* style of manuscript lettering. Correct formation and spacing is emphasized. At the end of the first semester, the class begins instruction in cursive writing. This is a transitional process. The children must show an accomplishment of manuscript writing before moving forward.

Mathematics: The second grade uses the *Pearson Program's enVision Math*, a success oriented program that enables children to develop a solid foundation in the language and basic concepts of mathematics. The program utilizes a multi-sensory approach to teaching and builds on prior learning. Each lesson is accompanied by in-class guided practice and independent homework practice which mirrors the problems completed in

class. The subject matter consists of number sense and numeration, concepts of whole number operations, whole number computation, fractions and decimals, geometry and spatial relationships, measurement, data analysis and statistics, probability, algebra, and functions.

Science: The *Harcourt Science Series* serves as a reference during the first semester to meet the goals and content objectives of the National Science Education Standards. The second grade curriculum is composed of units from *Life Science, Earth Science, and Physical Science*. Topics such as *Living Things Grow and Change, Homes for Living Things, Earth's Surface, Space and Weather, Exploring Matter, and Energy in Motion* are covered this year.

Social Studies: Our social studies curriculum is from the *Harcourt Brace Series*. This series provides a wide range of content for your child. Topics such as map skills, beginning American history, citizenship, and community services are explored during the second semester. In addition, the children read and discuss a weekly Social Studies classroom periodical. This standards-based periodical allows information to remain current and interesting.

Religion: The school day begins with a group prayer during the Morning Assembly. The children recite the "Blessing before Meals" and the "Blessing after Meals" at lunch time. At the closing of the day, they recite a prayer together. The children are expected to memorize the "Our Father," "Hail Mary," "Glory Be," "Act of Contrition" and the "Guardian Angel Prayer." The textbook, *Faith First*, is used for instruction. It is in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This year is a very important one for your child as he or she prepares for two sacraments, Reconciliation and Holy Communion. The students have weekly Bible verses to memorize. The students attend Mass on Wednesday morning and Holy Days of Obligation. As the year progresses they take active roles in the liturgy such as reading, singing in the choir, offertory procession and commentator.

Spanish: Northern Arizona University's Elementary Spanish DVD series is viewed weekly.

Music, Art, Physical Education, Computer, and Library: Classes in each of these areas are attended weekly. Specialists in each field of study provide the instruction.