

First Assembly Christian School Second Grade Curriculum

Language

Our Language Arts Program integrates reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. The program approaches learning through direct skills and literature/writing. We cover sentence and paragraph structure, parts of speech (nouns, verbs, pronouns, et.), punctuation and vocabulary enrichment (compound words, homophones, synonyms, and antonyms). The students gain an appreciation for different styles of writing by reading and studying various types of literature. Students compose narratives, informational reports, poetry, fictional stories, descriptive, and comparative writings. The children are given daily opportunities to write in journals and in subject areas. Daily reading and language assignments are integrated with other subjects whenever possible.

Text: English – Houghton Mifflin

Literature/Phonics

Our literature units are designed to integrate reading and language with science and social studies. **A Beka** readers, which are phonetically based and grade level specific, are used for take-home reading. Students read storybooks, non-fiction literature, and small chapter books. The second grade library includes over 30 class sets of award-winning titles. We also use *Accelerated Reader* to enhance our literature program. Accelerated Reader gives our students the opportunity to customize their reading and to test comprehension based on their individual reading level. In class, we teach word attack skills, context clues, vocabulary, comprehension, story order, characterization, settings, plot, comparison, prediction and dialogue. Components of reading involve reading aloud to students, shared reading, individual and partner reading, nightly reading for homework, individual or class writing activities and literature extension skills.

Text: Literature Works – Silver Burdette Ginn
Letter and Sounds – A Beka
Accelerated Reader – Computer Program

Spelling

Our spelling program is based on a list of the 1200 most frequently used words in the English language. The instructional approach is patterned after reading instruction strategies: teaching words in context rather than isolation, applying skills in a variety of settings, teaching the skills within the student's own writing, making it relevant and important to the student. Our goal is to effect life long mastery that carries over into all settings and writing environments. We begin with the high frequency "core" words. Activities are designed to develop visual skills and long term retention skills. Students are taught to apply in real writing situations the spelling strategies, rules and skills they learn. They will be held accountable for spelling these "priority" words correctly, every time they write them – in every subject.

Text: Rebecca Sitton's Spelling Sourcebooks & A Beka Spelling

Handwriting

A formal handwriting lesson is taught daily. A consumable penmanship book is used along with meaningful handwriting activities with spelling words, Scripture and phonics. The students review and refine their manuscript skills with an emphasis on posture and pencil position. In August, the students are introduced to cursive writing. During the year, students master single letter formation and connecting letters to make words while focusing on paper position, slanted letters, and word spacing. The students do not begin using cursive writing in daily work until third grade.

Text: Writing with Phonics – A Beka

Mathematics

Second grade math is a success-oriented program that enables all children to develop a solid foundation in the language and basic concepts in all areas of mathematics. They learn and practice skills related to time, money, measurement, place value, three-digit addition and subtraction, multiplication to fives, geometry, fractions, reading a graph and problem solving. The lessons include discussion, group work, hands on activities, individual written practice and number fact practice.

Text: Math 2 – Scott Foresman/Addison Wesley

Science

The second grade science program includes the study of life science, physical science, and health. The units are planned to develop basic observation and critical thinking skills, to encourage exploration and discovery, and to appreciate God's hand in His intricate creation. Our life science units include animal and plant life cycles, and nutrition. The students also study the planets in our solar system. Our earth science units include weather and seasons. Both fiction and non-fiction books are used to integrate these themes.

Text: **Enjoying God's World – A Beka**

Social Studies

The goal of the social studies program in second grade is to develop a geographic, global, and historical perspective of God's World. As we learn about other cultures, the students appreciate how God makes everyone unique and how He has had His hand on history throughout the world. Our American history units include the study of Columbus, Colonial America and the influence of African-Americans in our country. As we study units on South America and Africa, the students examine the influence of culture, religion, and geography. The history units are reinforced with literature units in reading, guest speakers, art, cooking, field trips, and special projects.

Text: **Our America – A Beka**

Bible

During devotions the students share a time of singing, prayer, Scripture memorization, and Bible study. At the beginning of the year, the plan of salvation is clearly explained. The goal is to ensure that each student can begin a relationship, and glorify God in every situation. The students learn how to pray, what the Bible is, and how to apply the Old Testament stories and Christ's life and teachings to their everyday lives. The class has an opportunity to minister to others when they have the responsibility for leading at least one of the weekly chapel services during the year. Students also study the lives of Old Testament Heroes and missionaries to India, China and Africa and pray for the spiritual needs of these countries.

Text: **ACSI Bible Curriculum**
NIV Bible

Music

Second grade students explore different uses of the voice in speech and song as good singing posture is reinforced and good breath control is practiced. The students practice reading rhythmic and melodic phrases as they learn to read notes on a staff. Listening selections are used to reinforce concepts of meter, dynamics and form and to compare differences in musical styles and moods. The students play many pitched and un-pitched percussion instruments to practice concepts such as expression, dynamics, tempo, rhythm patterns, and harmony. Second graders have fun creating their own music and learning how to add movement to compliment the music.

Art

In second grade, students are introduced to different art materials. They experiment with pencils, paints, markers, crayons, pastels, and papers. Students will have fun printing, creating collages, and constructing a mobile. They explore the uses and techniques of art media and develop skill in their uses.

Media (Library/Computer)

Second grade students have the opportunity to visit the Media center twice a week. This class allows students to check out books from the library, learn library skills, become familiar with all kinds of literature, research topics for classroom projects, take Accelerated Reading quizzes, and work on technology skills. Students learn basic keyboarding and operational skills. Students also use computer software and activities to reinforce educational skills introduced in the classroom.

Physical Education

Second grade students work the physical education teacher on a regular basis throughout the week. Sportsmanship as well as developmentally appropriate skills are practiced.

Spanish

Students begin this course in the 2nd grade and complete it by the 8th grade. Its purpose is to expose the student to basic reading, writing, oral, and listening skills in Spanish. Upon completion, students will be

able to take Spanish II in their freshman year of high school. Emphasis is placed on students acquiring a working knowledge of the language to assist in their transition into high school.

Text: Realidades 1 – Prentice Hall