

The American School in London

Grade 2: Semester 1 Curriculum Guide

By the end of the first reporting period, these are the ideas, concepts, and skills your child will have learned. We acknowledge that all children learn at different paces, and that it takes the students different lengths of time to master skills and concepts. Your child's teacher will update you on their initial social, emotional, and academic progress at October conferences and provide a more formal report card in February.

Approaches to Learning

In the area of social behavior and work habits, the students learn to be members of a cooperative classroom community using the structures of the Responsive Classroom. Through a daily morning meeting and sharing, students learn the routines and expectations for behavior. We encourage students to continuously be aware of how their actions and words affect others and model it throughout the day. As students continue to grow and develop, both responsibility and independence are expected to increase throughout the year.

Reading

The students are instructed in reading in a variety of ways including guided reading groups with leveled texts, independent reading, buddy reading, and whole group reading activities. Students are guided through a process of selecting books at their independent level to ensure comprehension, enjoyment, and good habits. In the middle of Grade 2 we would expect most students to be reading books between the purple and green bands in the LS Library, independently reading between Fountas and Pinnell levels K-L.

Writing

Using the Writer's Workshop model, students engage in the process of planning, drafting, revising, editing, publishing, and sharing their work. In the first half of the year students focus on personal narratives and opinion writing, along with writing across curricular subjects. Whole class mini-lessons teach students specific writing strategies, such as strong leads, dialogue, and correct usage of punctuation. Student/teacher conferences provide an opportunity for more individualized instruction based on students' needs. Word study is addressed in a variety of ways including a focus on high frequency words, spelling patterns, and spelling strategies specific to their own writing.

Speaking and Listening

Students in Grade 2 learn to be respectful, polite listeners to their peers and adults by using manners and following directions. Starting with a daily morning meeting, students learn to respond appropriately to the ideas of others, contribute to classroom discussions by waiting their turn, and welcome feedback by allowing others to ask questions about their thoughts or ideas. As speakers, students rehearse what they want to say in their mind before speaking, present relevant information, learn to articulate their words in a logical sequence, and pay attention to their volume. It is important for Grade 2 students to make eye contact and feel confident speaking to others.

Math

The Grade 2 math curriculum is based on the Common Core State Standards to develop students' conceptual understanding of key ideas and mathematical reasoning. Students approach problem solving from a variety of perspectives and learn that solutions may be reached by using different strategies, such as doubles, near doubles, counting on, and complements of 10. This semester, students deepen their understanding of addition, subtraction, and place value. They also use a strategy-based approach to build math fact fluency and further their exploration of data. Playing math games and using manipulatives are an integral part of the curriculum, designed to reinforce concepts and skills.

Social Studies

Students in Grade 2 start the year by learning about their classroom community. They also spend a significant amount of time exploring and sharing the different facets of their identity. Building on the concept of identity, students also learn to respect the diversity of others. Diversity is explored by getting to know each other's interests and family culture. Students build upon these concepts as they continue exploring the wider community of our school, neighborhoods, and London. Communities within London are studied and compared. Students ask themselves throughout the unit, "Who is a Londoner?". The students thoughtfully consider people and places that make up London communities by conducting neighborhood walks and interviewing community members. They also begin developing map skills by asking questions about, creating, and using maps of London. The first half of the year, second graders focus on social studies and after winter break, we will shift to learning science.

Art

Grade 2 students explore a variety of art techniques, art mediums and purposes in creating art through their own creative expression and through the study of artists. They learn how Line and colors can be used for a variety of art making purposes, creating designs that utilize expressive lines and repeated shapes then applying their knowledge of lines and colors to shape and form through sculpture design. Students attend two, 50-minute classes every eight days.

Music

Grade 2 students continue to develop their singing skills, their understanding of musical notation and their enjoyment of music as a means of self-expression. Opportunities to respond to music using movement and a variety of thinking strategies are an important part of lessons. Through practice, they develop a better understanding of how to create a melody and use a reduced stave to compose their own melodies using a glockenspiel, notating what they create. The students also learn more about using repeated notes, steps, skips, and jumps. Students play a variety of rhythmic and harmonic patterns as well as create their own, to accompany class songs. Students attend three, half hour lessons every eight days.

PE

The Grade 2 program is designed to further develop basic movement patterns for more complex physical activities. Students develop cooperative skills through team and partner activities. Flexibility, agility and upper body strength are developed through dance and gymnastics activities where students create their own sequences in collaborative groups. Each class attends aquatic lessons for a six-week block as part of their PE classes in either the first or second semester. The concepts of health and wellness are incorporated into all classes. Students attend 40-minute classes every other day.

Spanish

Grade 2 students continue to develop their understanding and use of Spanish. Students review the fundamentals of numbers, colors, days of the week, the alphabet and feelings and are introduced to new vocabulary including the home, sports and action words, school life, family, food, body parts, clothes and animals. Students have an opportunity to use and demonstrate their understanding through playing games and singing songs, which helps in the acquisition of new vocabulary and in refining their pronunciation. Units are designed so that students can use the language for meaningful purposes in rehearsed communicative contexts that include practice using basic grammatical structures as in the use of feminine-masculine and plural-singular. Students attend three, half hour lessons every eight days.