



September 17, 2018

Dear Second Grade Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Welcome to Grade Two! Students in second grade participate in a variety of classroom experiences to expand their love of learning and develop their academic, social and physical skills. The following descriptions present a brief overview of the comprehensive program.

Language Arts: Second grade students continue to develop and expand their literacy skills in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, language conventions, and speaking and listening by engaging in a variety of lessons and activities based on the Maryland College and Career Readiness Standards and the Anne Arundel County Literacy Curriculum. Students come to a deeper understanding of how to apply their early skills in reading and comprehending more complex literary and informational texts. Students respond to text-dependent questions and write to source after reading. As writers, they learn how to develop and organize their own ideas and incorporate the conventions of writing as they write opinion, informative and narrative pieces. Students continue to practice handwriting skills through writing.

Mathematics: The Anne Arundel County Public Schools Integrated Mathematics PreK-5 Program has implemented the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards through the transdisciplinary curriculum. These standards are a set of high-quality academic goals which provide rigor, focus, and coherence to prepare our students to be college and career ready by the time they graduate from high school. The mathematical domains taught in Grade 2 include:

- Number and Operations in Base 10 – Meanings of addition and subtraction, place value
- Operations and Algebraic Thinking
- Geometry
- Measurement and Data

The curriculum includes number sense routines and problems to introduce daily lessons that engage students in the learning of mathematics. Lessons are designed to be interactive to promote conceptual understanding. A variety of resources are employed to teach the mathematical skills that include *Teaching Student Centered Mathematics*, *Mastering the Basic Facts*, *Number Talks*, *Hands-On Standards*, web based resources such as Learn Zillion, and computer programs such as *FASTT Math*.

Students develop mathematical thinking through the integration of the Standards for Mathematical Practice. These practices require students to persevere when solving problems, explain their reasoning to others, choose appropriate mathematical tools, and be accurate. These practices are incorporated into daily lessons and promoted through student discourse during lessons. In addition, Artful Thinking strategies and STEM Connections are integrated within the curriculum.

Students will acquire mathematical concepts and be able to apply them to various real life situations. District assessments are given in conjunction with frequent checks for understanding and teacher observations, to determine the mastery of these skills and practices. Parents may assist in their child's success in mathematics by checking homework and communicating regularly with the classroom teacher. Stretch-to-Go games are available to use at home through the *Fastt Math* website.

Science and Social Studies: The Science and Social Studies learning block is designed to help realize a vision for education in Science, Engineering and Social Studies in which students actively engage in interdisciplinary applications and learning. Using the platform of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and Social Studies C3 standards students develop questions and investigate inquiries as scientists, social scientists, environmentalists, engineers, and informed citizens. Throughout the learning block of Science and Social Studies students are encouraged to observe, collect and evaluate data and evidence to communicate conclusions and take informed action about topics being studied. All lessons are designed to

investigate, study and answer a daily Exploration Question. Other MSDE Standards/lessons being addressed within the Science and Social Studies block are: Health, Guidance, and Counseling, Financial Literacy, Environmental Literacy and the MSDE Primary Talent Development Lessons.

English Language Acquisition Program (ESOL): English Language Acquisition (ELA) classes comply with the requirements of Title III of ESSA. The goal of English Language Acquisition instruction is to enable English Learners to construct meaning from oral and written language, express complex ideas and information, as well as access instruction. In order to accomplish this goal, the ELA curriculum is based on WIDA English Language Development (ELD) standards:

- Social and Instructional Language
- The Language of Language Arts
- The Language of Math
- The Language of Science
- The Language of Social Studies

While the ELA teacher is responsible for English Language Development according to the WIDA ELD standards, the Maryland State Standards for College and Career Readiness, as well as National and State Content Standards, are the context used for teaching the language. All students who have been identified as eligible to receive English Language Acquisition services will take WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, the annual assessment to measure English Language Proficiency.

Environmental Literacy: Students answer the question: How can we improve wildlife habitats? Integrated as part of the science unit, students learn that plants and animals are adapted to specific habitats. Students learn that human activities often harm habitats, which threatens plants and animals. Students take action to improve habitats for wildlife in their schoolyard or home.

Technology: Students increase and promote creativity, communicate and collaborate with others and gather, evaluate and analyze information and data. They solve problems and make decisions in a manner that demonstrates their understanding of the social, ethical, and human issues related to technology.

We are looking forward to a year of learning for your second grader. If you desire additional information, please contact your child's teacher.

Sincerely,
Tracey L. Ahern
Principal

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