

Second Grade Course Description

Overview for Parents

Teacher: Marjorie Martin

Content Goals

Language Arts

Open Court reading program materials, Core Knowledge Listening and Learning Units, Junior Great Books, classroom library, Lora Robins Library, monthly reading logs, Writer's Workshop program materials, Houghton-Mifflin Core Skills spelling program, and teacher-made projects and activities

- increase phonemic awareness
- expand vocabulary and sight words
- further develop comprehension skills
- learn how to use evidence from the text to support answers
- become more confident oral readers
- develop independent reading habits
- learn to share ideas during group discussion
- practice both agreement and disagreement in a collaborative effort to construct meaning
- learn to listen to others to appreciate the value of divergent perspectives
- gain experience with drafting, rewriting, editing, and publishing
- write in different genres: narrative, fiction, expository, poetry, friendly letters
- increase spelling familiarity with an emphasis on spelling rules and patterns for blends, digraphs, plurals, prefixes, and suffixes
- learn basic structure of language including components of a sentence, types of sentences, nouns, past and present tense verbs, adjectives, pronouns, possessives, contractions, synonyms, antonyms, and homophones
- apply capitalization rules and punctuation including end marks and commas

Math

Math-in-Focus materials, manipulatives, games, and teacher-made projects and activities

- obtain mastery of basic unit skills and concepts
- develop problem solving strategies
- memorize the basic addition and subtraction facts
- realize that math is a part of everyday life
- gain confidence in one's own ability

History

Core Knowledge material, teacher-made projects and activities, read-aloud and picture books

- demonstrate basic familiarity with information in units
- sing and enjoy associated songs
- become aware of how lessons learned from history can change the present and the future
- develop respect and appreciation for different cultural norms

Science

Core Knowledge material, teacher-made projects and activities, reference materials, and picture books

- demonstrate basic familiarity with information in units
- develop curiosity for the unknown

Geography

National Geographic materials, maps, globes and teacher-made projects and activities

- increase spatial sense
- use and create maps
- learn geographic terms

Handwriting D'Nealian workbook, teacher-made materials

- solidify manuscript ability
- learn cursive letters
- demonstrate basic ability to write in cursive
- comply with standards of handwriting legibility

Core Virtues Core Virtues material, storytelling, read-aloud and picture books

- follow classroom rules and respect rights of classmates
- comprehend basic lessons taught through stories
- demonstrate an ability to connect lessons to personal experiences
- develop “habits of heart”

Expectations for Students

Strong Minds

- learn how to keep desk, homework folder and other materials organized
- develop a tolerance for constructive feedback from teachers and classmates
- learn to persevere when facing academic challenges

Kind Hearts

- treat others with respect and kindness
- begin to move beyond egocentric concerns
- learn to self-monitor behavior

Homework Expectations

- Recreational reading: 20 minutes per day (7 days a week)
- Math: Monday – Thursday
- Spelling: Thursday and Wednesday (test on Thursday)
- Book reports – one per trimester
- Other work when assigned

Teacher Contact Information

1. E-mail – marjorie.martin@crossroadsacademy.org
2. Leave message on Crossroads Academy voice mail – (603) 795-3111 ext. 108



95 Dartmouth College Highway, Lyme, NH 03768
www.crossroadsacademy.org • 603.795.3111