Second Grade 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, 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, compound words, 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, conjunctions, synonyms, antonyms, and homophones
- apply capitalization rules and punctuation including end marks and commas

Math
Math-in-Focus activities and materials, Everyday Counts activities and materials, Crossroads Coding Curriculum, classroom manipulatives, games, and teacher-made materials

- 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 awareness of our location on Earth
- 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 the 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

- Reading: 20 minutes per day (7 days a week) This may be assigned; when it is not, children should read books of their choice.
- Math: Generally Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
- Spelling: Lessons assigned on Thursdays and due the following Wednesdays
- Book reports – two per year

Teacher Contact Information

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