



Second Grade Overview

Covenant Christian School

Second grade is a wonderful learning experience at Covenant Christian School. Students continue to grow in their education through an integral curriculum and experiential learning. They further develop age-appropriate academic and life skills. Through the lens of a biblical worldview students continue to grow both as learners and as followers of Christ.

Bible

The Bible curriculum is *Walking With God and His People*, published by Christian Schools International. Through hearing and reading stories in both the Old and New Testaments, students will understand the need for salvation and redemption through Jesus Christ. Games, choral readings, drama, and Reader's Theatre are all employed to make Bible lessons both meaningful and fun. Second Grade students learn about the Bible itself, including instruction and practice in navigation and personal use. They also learn hymns and memorize Bible verses that correspond with the school-wide monthly themes presented during Morning Gatherings. Most importantly, the Bible and a Christian worldview are infused and integrated into every subject and every aspect of the school day. Throughout the year and across the curriculum, the second grade students focus on the 7C's in God's eternal plan: Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, and Consummation.

Language Arts

Language Arts includes Reading, Writing, Phonics, Spelling, Grammar, and Handwriting. These six areas are intimately connected to each other, and to other subject areas as well. Level 2 of the Wilson Foundations Reading Program, *Voyages in English Grade 2*, Zaner-Bloser Manuscript Mastery and Cursive Basics, the 6+1 Writing Traits, and a rich, diverse selection of literature are combined integrally to provide students with a strong, solid foundation of literacy.

Daily Read Aloud and individual reading time strengthen comprehension skills, expand vocabulary, promote creative and critical thinking, and encourage a lifelong love of reading and learning. Additionally, literature selections work integrally with Science, History, and Geography. Some literature examples include: *The Courage of Sarah Noble*, *The Original Adventures of Flat Stanley*, and biographies of George Washington Carver, Abraham Lincoln, and Rachel Carson (among others). Writing is truly integral to all subject areas.

Students learn and utilize the 6+1 Traits of Writing (ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions) in a variety of genres, including letter writing, journals, memoirs, and stories. They implement the various steps of the writing process (planning, writing, revising, editing, publishing) with the goal of presenting/sharing their work with their classmates and others. The year culminates in a comprehensive (Reading and Writing) poetry unit, which includes a celebratory poetry reading for friends and family. Cumulatively, the second graders use an integral journal to organize their thoughts and ideas throughout the year.

Mathematics

Covenant uses Saxon Math 3 in second grade for Mathematics. Saxon Math uses an incremental approach, teaching students in a spiral format that presents new concepts daily while consistently reviewing older concepts. The program adds more and more information to concepts previously encountered. Saxon uses “hands on” manipulatives and has a very strong focus on the mastery of basic math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) in the K-3 levels. The goal is to provide a strong foundation for the intermediate and upper grades. By year’s end, second grade students should have a firm grasp of concepts such as the calendar year, place value to 1,000,000 and basic math facts. Additionally, students will further their understanding of money, telling time, multi-digit addition and subtraction, geometry, basic fractions, and patterns among other concepts.

Social Studies

Social Studies includes History, Civics, and Geography. Various texts are used in the exploration of early American history, U.S. presidents, famous African-Americans, and patriotic symbols, songs and holidays. In the second trimester students do an in-depth study of the American flag, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the rights and liberties they represent. This is good preparation for undertaking the daily raising and lowering of the American flag, which is the responsibility of the second grade at Covenant. Harcourt’s Success with Maps is one of the resources used for learning basic map skills including using a compass rose, locating places on a grid, interpreting map symbols, and constructing simple maps. The class also participates in a Flat Stanley project throughout the school year, which helps students learn about U.S. geography.

Science

Topics of study in second grade Science include the moon, weather watching, and birds. In the moon unit students chart the phases of the moon for a month and reflect on what the Apollo expeditions learned about earth’s nearest celestial neighbor. Weather watching includes observing, discussing, and recording differences in daily, weekly, and seasonal changes in temperature and other weather conditions. Students learn about the water cycle as well as the solar and planetary causes of the changing weather, seasons, and climate. In the study of birds, students learn about their general anatomy and what gives them the ability to fly. Students use the Beginning Birdwatcher Book by Sy Barlowe. Students also see the amazing creativity of our Creator as they observe the physical characteristics, flight, feeding and nesting behaviors of a wide variety of birds found here in Missouri. During the winter and spring there is an emphasis on raptors as the class follows great horned owl and bald eagle families on the internet while they are nest building, egg laying, and raising their clutches. One highlight is an all-day excursion to visit the Audubon Center, the World Bird Sanctuary, and to view bald eagles in the wild. The integration and focused study of birds and weather are woven into the daily fabric of the classroom and fit nicely with the school’s outdoor classroom space. The second graders end the school year studying plants from Thomas Jefferson’s garden as well as plants from around the world. They track the plants they learn about just like Thomas Jefferson.

Enrichment

Students enjoy classes in Music, Art, Drawing, Physical Education, and Library each week. Covenant’s specialty courses teach students to recognize, appreciate, and engage with God’s amazing Creation in a multitude of ways.

