

## **Lower School Course Outline Second Grade**

### **Subject: Language Arts**



#### **Introduction:**

The second grade balanced literacy program engages children in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and observing. Students work independently, in small groups, and in whole groups to explore decoding and comprehension skills and strategies. Fiction, non-fiction, and poetry are genres of literature study. Students respond to literature through drawings, writing pieces, and find greater understanding through literature groups. Reading and writing opportunities are integrated in the science and social studies units as well.

#### **Content:**

##### **Verbal Communication:**

Students acquire and use new vocabulary, evaluate and make comparisons, make associations during brainstorming activities, and retell stories using descriptive language. Students recall details, name main characters and events, name parts of a story in sequence, identify main ideas, and predict actions and outcomes. Students become confident public speakers through sharing of daily calendar report, class journals, personal writings and speeches.

##### **Reading & Phonics Instruction:**

Students are encouraged to read various types of literature with full understanding. Students are instructed on how to choose books that match their independent reading level. Students demonstrate comprehension through sequencing activities, recalling details, identifying story elements, recognizing and recalling vocabulary, and summarizing. Students also work in groups to discuss stories, define vocabulary words, and answer in-depth questions related to text.

##### **Written Communication:**

Students begin to think of themselves as authors. Students compose stories, poetry, report writing, and personal narratives. Students begin to use proper sentence structure, which includes ending punctuation and capitalization. After students' spelling stages are determined, spelling instruction is on their individual level. Students learn how consonant and vowel patterns work in single-syllable words.

#### **Approach:**

Through teacher directed instruction, cooperative group work, discussion, independent work, small group work and guided reading and writing, students will be taught various reading strategies and writing techniques.

#### **Materials:**

Leveled (Fountas and Pinnell) trade books and guided reading books, children's literature, *Word Journey* spelling lists, Grammar, Usage and Mechanics books, and phonics practice books are some of the materials in use.

#### **Evaluation:**

Students are evaluated through teacher observation, projects, book studies, and writing samples. Formal reading evaluations are completed twice a year.

## **Lower School Course Outline Second Grade**

### **Subject: Math**

#### **Introduction:**

The second grade Math in Focus (Singapore Math) program engages students in cooperative learning through partner, small-group, and whole group activities. Students share ideas and strategies through discussion. This program teaches strategies using real world problems.

#### **Content:**

- **Place value and comparing numbers**
- **Addition and subtraction with and without regrouping**
- **Using bar models**
- **Multiplying and dividing**
- **Metric and customary measurement (length, mass, volume)**
- **Mental math and estimation**
- **Money/time**
- **Fractions**
- **Picture graphs**
- **Shapes and patterns**

#### **Approach:**

Through direct instruction, cooperative group work, discussions, independent work, games, and use of manipulatives, students will be taught various strategies and techniques to understand and solve math problems.

#### **Materials:**

*Math in Focus* textbooks, workbooks, extra practice pages, manipulatives, and games. Also included are reteaching and enrichment activities to help meet the needs of all students.

#### **Evaluation:**

Formal and informal assessment tools include teacher observation, student self-assessment, and periodic progress checks in the *Math in Focus* program.

## **Lower School Course Outline Second Grade**

**Subject: Social Studies (Subject to change as current events occur)**

### **Introduction:**

Students engage in a variety of experiences to examine the world around them and to see themselves in relation to the people, nations, and cultures of the world. They explore and record their experiences in reading, field trips, drama, discussion, writing, art-making, and research. The students learn to successfully access information through use of various resources.

### **Content:**

#### **Maps:**

Students are introduced to world maps and globes. They learn to identify the continents and oceans and can locate them in the correct hemisphere. Students will carry the skills learned in this area into future areas of study in second grade.

#### **Ancient Egypt:**

Students investigate the Nile River and geography of Egypt to practice map skills, learn about river ecology, river bank agriculture, modes of travel, and understand a trade economy. Students examine life as an ancient Egyptian to learn about their religion, culture, written language, art, government, housing, and occupations. Students relate Egyptian architecture and building technology to the science study of simple machines. Students compare the ancient river culture of Egypt to the modern urban river culture of Philadelphia.

#### **National Landmarks**

Students begin to learn about the history of our country by studying the national landmarks and memorials of the United States. Students locate these on maps and learn about the people they honor.

#### **Civics**

Students learn about the three branches of government and the responsibilities of being a good citizen. Students study the election process from nominations through the voting process.

### **Approach:**

Through lecture, cooperative large and small group work, discussions, independent work, power point presentations, research, web quests, and field trips students learn about the world in which they live. Students create their own ice cream election for the entire school.

### **Materials:**

Trade books, including a wide selection of books about ancient Egypt, replicated artifacts of ancient Egypt, maps, globes, and atlases comprise the list of materials.

**Evaluation:**

Students are evaluated through teacher observation, projects, writing samples, and performances.

**Lower School Course Outline  
Second Grade****Subject: Science****Introduction:**

Students are exposed to a variety of science concepts that give them the opportunity to think critically, collect and analyze data, and involve themselves in the scientific world.

**Content:****Life Science:**

Students will investigate the following human body systems: digestive, circulatory, brain and nervous system, skeletal and muscular.

During the seashore unit, the students learn about animals that lived in the shells found along the New Jersey shoreline.

**Earth Science:**

The students observe the weather throughout the entire school year. They record the temperature and weather conditions daily. Students make their own tools to measure weather conditions. Students relate weather to their daily lives.

The students become more scientifically aware of the seashore. Using their own experiences and discoveries, students investigate seashells, shore plants and animals.

**Physical Science:**

Students explore force and motion. Students measure force using simple machines including wheels, levers, pulleys, inclined planes, wedges, and screws.

**Approach:**

Through teacher directed instruction, cooperative group work, discussion, independent work, small group work, field trips and experiments, students will be taught various strategies and techniques.

**Materials:**

Children's literature and periodicals, trade books, Delta's Force and Matter kit, weather instruments, laboratory equipment, and seashore shell, plant, and animal collection comprise the materials list.

**Evaluation Process:**

Students are evaluated through teacher observation, projects, and writing samples.