Washoe County School District
Family Guide to Learning

How you can help your child succeed in elementary school

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2nd Grade Curriculum Guide

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This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of second grade as determined by the Nevada Academic Content Standards (NVACS), our statewide academic standards. The NVACS describe what all students should know and be able to do from kindergarten through the 12th grade. The NVACS is a set of minimum expectations, not a curriculum, so decisions about how to help students meet learning goals remains in the hands of the District, schools, and teachers.

The guide focuses on the key concepts in literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies as well as library, music, computers, 21st Century Skills, and Social & Emotional Learning. If your child meets the expectations outlined in the NVACS, he or she will be well prepared for 3rd grade.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

For additional ideas for learning at home, or to learn more about the Nevada Academic Content Standards please visit us online at http://www.washoeschools.net/Page/1002.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

As part of helping your elementary student become College and Career Ready, your child's teacher will be

1. Helping your student get into the habit of using evidence in speaking, reading and writing.
2. Building knowledge using non-fiction text.
3. Developing skills necessary for your student to work with challenging texts and its academic vocabulary.

Reading– *Foundations, Literature, and Informational Text*

- Identify the main topic and purpose of a text.
- Use text features (e.g., captions, bold print, glossaries, indexes) to locate key information in a text.
- Decode words using long and short vowels, vowel teams (e.g., ai, ea, ou), and prefixes and suffixes (e.g., re-, un-, dis-, -ed, -es, -ly).
- Ask and answer questions as who, what, where, why and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
- Recognize and use the features of digital text (e.g. hyperlinks, annotation tools).

Writing

- Write opinion pieces that include claims, evidence and reasoning.
- Write narratives that retell events; include important details that describe actions, thoughts, and feelings; and write a closing statement.
- Recall or gather information from sources, including online sources, to answer a question.
- Support written work using appropriate visual and auditory media through the use of digital tools.

Supporting Your Child's Learning at Home

- *Read all types of text, including magazines, news articles, and books.*
- *Ask and answer questions (e.g., who, what, where, when, why, how) to understand details in the text (e.g., Who is the main character? Where does the story take place?).*
- *Read different types of books together (e.g., folktales, fables). Discuss the central message, lesson, or moral of the story.*
- *Discuss stories your child is reading. Ask questions about stories; have your child use parts of the story to explain his/her thinking.*
- *Discuss characters and their actions as you read stories together.*
- *Write every day by keeping a journal or diary with your child's own stories or concepts he/she knows or learns.*
- *Add details and reasons to what your child is writing to support his/her opinion.*
- *Have your child find information on the Internet related to what they are learning in school.*
- *Encourage your child to create digital content, and share it with friends and family through tools like a family blog, and ask relatives to post comments.*
- *If you use social networking sites, consider creating collaborative posts with your child to help them understand appropriate online language and behaviors.*

Language

- Produce, expand, and rearrange complete simple and compound sentences (e.g., I tried to play baseball and my friend tried to play football).
- Distinguish shades of meaning among verbs and adjectives (e.g., toss, throw, hurl; thin, slender, scrawny).
- Use a root word as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word with the same root (e.g., addition, additional).

MATHEMATICS

Operations and Algebraic thinking

- Make sense of and solve addition and subtraction problems (to solutions of 0-100) using strategies and tools including the number line. Understand and use the relationship between addition and subtraction. For example: *There are 30 apples. Sixteen apples are on the table, and the rest are in the bag. How many apples are in the bag? I can add to solve: 16 + ? = 30 by knowing that 4 more apples makes 20 and 10 more apples than that make 30. There are 14 apples in the bag.*
- Use strategies to build fluency with basic number facts within 20, such as 6 + 8 = 14, 14 – 8 = 6.
  - Use "Make 10 and Count Up" to solve 7+5=? I know that 7+3=10, and 2 more makes 12.
  - Use "Known Facts" to solve 6+8=? I know that 6+6=12, and 2 more makes 14.

Supporting Your Child's Learning at Home

- *Solve real-life word problems. Look for two-digit addition and subtraction situations at home. Encourage your child to use drawings and explanations when solving problems. Ask questions to promote thinking such as:*
  - *Where is a good place to start?*
  - *Does this problem remind you of another problem?*
  - *Can you tell me what is happening in the problem?*
  - *What are you trying to figure out?*
  - *Can you prove your thinking?*
- *Create a schedule, count your change, play "store" with a cashier and customer, or measure objects around the house.*
- *Play games where you describe a shape for them to draw. For example: I have 5 sides, 5 angles and am a two-dimensional shape. Draw me (Pentagon).*
- *Encourage your child to use digital tools and apps that support development of mathematical concepts and skills.*

The Number and Operations in Base 10

- Understand place value to the 100s (the digits of a three-digit number represent hundreds, tens, and ones). For example, in the number 345, the 3 represents 300, the 4 represents 40 and the 5 represents 5.
- Count, read, write, and compare numbers within 1,000.

Measurement and Data

- Estimate and measure lengths in standard units (e.g., inches, feet, centimeters, meters) using rulers, yardsticks, and meter sticks.
- Tell and write time to the nearest five minutes using analog and digital clocks (Analog clocks are clocks with hands).
- Work with money, time, and measurement in real-world situations.

Geometry

- Recognize and draw shapes based on a given number of angles and faces (e.g., pentagons have five angles; cubes have six equivalent surfaces called "faces"). Split rectangles into equal parts by drawing rows and columns of same sized squares, and count to find the total number of squares.
- Divide circles and rectangles into two, three, or four equal parts, describing the parts as halves, half of, thirds, a third of, fourths, quarters, etc.

SOCIAL STUDIES

History

- Describe why important events and customs are marked by holidays (e.g., eating a meal together at Thanksgiving, fireworks for the Fourth of July, Veteran's Day Parade, etc.).
- Examine artifacts (historical or cultural objects) from around the world for important clues as to how people lived their daily lives.
- Identify ways in which people cooperate to achieve a common goal, and practice this through class activities.
- Describe how famous Americans have impacted history.

Geography

- Construct a simple map of the community.
- Describe neighborhoods and communities as places where people live, work, and play.
- Identify traditions and customs that families practice.
- Identify and use online tools for exploring geographic places.

Supporting Your Child's Learning at Home

- *Explore the importance of local and national landmarks and explain how they create a sense of community.*
- *Listen to and discuss news events in the community, and use social media and online tools to monitor events.*
- *Discuss the difference between rural (country/farming) and urban (cities) communities.*
- *Identify natural resources and where they can be found in the neighborhood.*
- *Examine reasons for saving money.*
- *Identify ways to share household resources.*
- *Describe traditional patriotic activities, holidays, or symbols from around the world.*
- *Use rules to help your child guide their behavior and resolve conflicts.*

Economics

- Give examples of what is given up when people make choices.
- Discuss why people work.
- Describe ways to share classroom resources.

Civics

- Identify an individual's rights within the classroom and in school.
- Participate in class decision-making (e.g., individual responsibilities in the classroom).

SCIENCE

Structure and Properties of Matter

How are materials similar and different from one another, and how do the properties of the materials relate to their use?

- Matter has different properties and states, i.e. solid, liquid or gas (dependent on temperature).
- Different properties of matter are suited to different purposes.*
- Changes made to matter by heating or cooling cannot always be reversed such as baking a cake or burning wood.

Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

What do plants need to grow? How many types of living things live in a place?

- Plants need water and light to grow and animals to pollinate or move their seeds.*
- Match animals and plants to particular habitats.

Supporting your child's learning at home

- *Encourage your child to observe, ask questions, experiment, and seek their own understandings of natural and human-made phenomena around them.*
- *Experiment with solids and liquids, such as making homemade play dough or Gak.*
- *Plant and care for different seeds. Put some in sunlight and some in a dark area. Use different amounts of water and record observations.*
- *Visit a zoo and discuss the different type of habitats the animals live in.*
- *Discuss erosion and what happens over time, using our mountains as a starting point.*
- *Explore online science resources, such as "digital field trips" to a museum or zoo.*

Earth's Systems

How does land change and what are some things that cause it to change? What are the different kinds of land and bodies of water?

- Wind and water can change the shape of the land.*
- Changes can be quick or take so long they cannot be observed.
- Maps can show water and land formations.
- Water is found on the earth in different bodies of water such as lakes, streams, and rivers and in different states, i.e. solid, liquid or gas.

*Engineering opportunities that allow children to apply what they have learned in science and mathematics. These activities are based on real-world problems to see how science and mathematics are relevant to children's lives.

Other areas of learning beyond the areas of reading and writing, mathematics, science, and social studies include:

Music

- Perform folk songs and multicultural songs from memory with proper posture and singing voice.
- Perform, identify, read, and write quarter notes, eighth notes, tied quarter notes, half notes, quarter rest, and half rest.
- Perform the beat and repeated rhythm patterns (ostinato) on classroom instruments in an ensemble.
- Perform and identify 2 meter by distinguishing between strong and weak beat.
- Read music symbols including accent, measure, barline, double barline, and repeat sign.
- Use music vocabulary to describe tempo and dynamics.
- Match pitch on simple pentatonic (5-note) melodies containing la, so, mi, re, and do.
- Read and perform known songs from the music staff using la, so, mi, re, and do.
- Perform songs in two-parts canons or two-part rounds.
- Perform songs in a variety of forms, including verse/refrain form, AB form, and Rondo form.
- Add sound effects and accompaniment to known stories or songs by using body percussion and/or classroom instruments.
- Perform simple folk dances, circle games, and line dances with peers.
- "Tinker" with digital apps and tools for creating music.

Library

- Information literacy by asking broad questions that will help in locating needed information; identifying and locating materials using the library catalog; searching by title, author, or subject; and recognizing fact, opinion and point-of-view.
- Independent learning by seeking information of personal interest or well-being; recognizing and reading a variety of literature (fiction and non-fiction) from various cultures and genres including folktales, poetry, fiction, and non-fiction; and selecting information that is useful to a specific problem or question.
- Social responsibility by recognizing that books are written and illustrated by authors and illustrators from many cultures; sharing access to limited resources and explaining why it's important for all classmates to have access to information; and expressing their own ideas appropriately and effectively, in person and with teacher's assistance, while working in groups to identify and solve information problems.
- Digital citizenship.

Computers

Second graders will identify the computer and its components. They will continue to learn basic computer skills that are needed to complete computerized assessments. They will begin to perform many operations including dragging-and-dropping, using the right mouse button, and performing double-clicking operations with less assistance. Second graders will continue to master keyboarding and the home row keys. With assistance, second graders will collaborate with other students on classroom projects. They will be introduced to word processing tools. They will practice mathematics, phonics, reading, writing and keyboarding skills through various interactive software products. They will develop the knowledge to search the Internet with guidance. They will develop a basic understanding of digital citizenship, including the dangers of cyberspace. They will begin to understand the importance of developing a positive on-line identity and will develop a greater understanding the concept of netiquette, the proper way to communicate with people when using the Internet.

Social and Emotional Competencies

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is a process for helping children and adults develop the fundamental skills for life effectiveness. SEL teaches the skills we all need to handle ourselves, our relationships, and our work, effectively and ethically.

- Self-Awareness: Identifies personal strengths and challenges in order to ask for help.
- Self-Management: Identify the steps needed to perform a routine task or accomplish a goal.
- Social Awareness: Understands appropriate social behavior in different settings.
- Relationship Skills: Communicates clearly, cooperating, and offering help when needed.
- Responsible Decision-Making: Demonstrates constructive academic behaviors and self-regulation (listen, pay attention, follow directions, and ignore distractions).

21st Century Learning

Students need to be prepared for this rapidly changing world and it is critical that we give them a well-rounded experience that includes not only strong academic content, but essential skills that prepare them for careers and college and help them to think critically, solve real-world problems, speak and write clearly, and work productively with others. These competencies, known as 21st century competencies, include:

- Collaboration: working effectively in pairs or groups
- Knowledge Construction: generating ideas and understandings about the world
- Real-World Problem Solving and Innovation: defining and developing solutions to problems
- Use of Technology for Learning: using technology creatively to construct knowledge
- Self-Regulation: planning and improving work over time
- Skilled Communication: connecting and expressing ideas to an audience

Students in second grade will also be exposed to visual arts, physical education, and health concepts as applicable.

LITERACY

SCIENCE

21st Century Skills

MATHEMATICS

Social and Emotional Learning

library

music

computers

SOCIAL STUDIES

Washoe County School District

Every Child, By Name And Face, To Graduation℠

Department of Curriculum & Instruction

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