

CURRICULUM:

Second Grade

St. Mary's Visitation Catholic Parish School's Second Grade curriculum is fully aligned to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Standards based on Wisconsin state standards. Our Second grade curriculum fosters a love of learning while building foundational academic skills. With our approach to learning, teachers emphasize hands-on learning, creativity, and character development in a nurturing environment. Second graders are active participants in our school liturgies twice a week.

The Whole Child

A complete Second Grade experience revolves around developing the skills of the whole child. At St. Mary's Visitation, it is our goal to provide an opportunity for children to grow not only academically, but spiritually, socially, emotionally, and physically. We instill in children the Catholic Values, social skills, manners, independence, and the routine and structure of school. St. Mary's Visitation Catholic Parish School endeavors to provide an atmosphere of high expectations that challenge the individual and promote lifelong learning so each student can reach the fullness of his or her individual potential. Through partnering with parents, we are able to meet these expectations and goals.

Religion

Religious education at St. Mary's Visitation encompasses not only formal religion classes, but also an education in Catholic beliefs and values that is integrated in every aspect of the academic curriculum. Second graders learn about their Catholic faith through Scripture stories, prayer, discussion and reflection, music, and weekly liturgies. They will also receive Reconciliation and First Eucharist. The Second grade Religion curriculum we use is called *Spirit of Truth* from Sophia Institute Press and Catholic teachings are discussed and integrated across all subject areas. The following topics are the focus of the Second grade Religion curriculum:

- Understands that the Church models the way Jesus lived
- Knows that Jesus died to save us from our sins
- Names the seven sacraments as special signs of God's love
- Recognizes that Eucharist is Christ's body and blood in the bread and wine i.e., the real presence of Christ
- Knows the Ten Commandments are God's laws that teach us to love God and others
- Memorizes the Hail Mary and Act of Contrition
- Recites the Nicene Creed and Apostles Creed as a group

English Language Arts

Reading

Second grade students experience different genres including fairy tales and tall tales, informational, fiction and nonfiction. In Second grade, we utilize *Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts* to foster individual student's knowledge and skills. Reading fluency and focusing on background knowledge will develop and improve as students are presented with the following skills and knowledge through the year:

- Phonemes
- Diagraphs
- Develop vocabulary
- Make predictions
- Use various text features to locate information
- Fairy tales and tall tales
- Reading strategies (infer, summarize, question)
- War of 1812
- Ancient Greek and myths
- Westward expansion
- Written and oral comprehension

Writing and Grammar

Second grade students will produce works that include the four step writing process: plan, draft, edit, publish. Students will convey their thoughts and communicate effectively through writing. They will use *Voyages in English* by Loyola Press which systematically combines grammar and writing into a single consumable book, ensuring students master the mechanics of language while developing strong writing skills.

Speaking and listening

Second grade students will listen to others when speaking and participate in collaborative discussions. Students will use language and vocabulary to express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly. Second grade students will be able to use language and vocabulary to share their opinions. Second graders will participate in class discussions along with presenting materials orally.

Mathematics

Second grade students use the mathematics curriculum through *Savvas enVision*. Starting on a firm foundation of conceptual understanding, students can connect and apply math ideas in amazing ways. In Second grade, students will learn the following topics:

- Add and subtract within 100 using strategies
- Fluently add and subtract within 100
- Time and money
- Numbers to 1,000
- Add and subtract within 1,000 using models and strategies
- Measuring length
- Shapes and their attributes
- Graphs and data

Science

Second graders will work collaboratively with each other and use hands-on experiences to understand science and the world that God created around them. Students will take a look at the *HMH Science Dimensions* curriculum to assist with communicating, explaining, analyzing, and understanding. In Second grade, students will study:

- Engineering and the design process
- Matter
- Environments for living things
- Earth's surface
- Changes to Earth's surface

Music

Second grade students will attend to music class twice a week where they will explore rhythmic and melodic phrases, perform music and show audience etiquette, identify fast and slow tempos, demonstrate high and low pitches, how to connect with our faith and sing music at Mass.

Library

Second grade students will visit the school library to listen to read alouds and choose a book based on interest to be checked out each week.

Social Studies

Second graders use the social studies curriculum from *Savvas myWorld*. Second grade students will develop awareness on community and the people around them along with the integration of our Catholic Social Teachings. The focus will be on:

- Families today and in the past
- People, places, and nature
- Government
- Goods and services
- Making a difference
- Our American culture

Physical Education

In Second grade, students will explore and demonstrate factors that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Students will participate in physical education twice a week to show competency in motor skills and movement patterns. They will also exhibit responsible social behavior that shows respect to self and others. Students will also work collaboratively and cooperatively.

The Arts

In Second grade, students will be introduced to various artists including Alma Woodsey Thomas, Wassily Kandinsky, and Hundertwasser. They will be using different art materials such as:

- tempera paint
- oil pastels
- watercolor pens
- colored pencils
- markers

Recess

In Second grade students benefit from recess twice a day where they interact with others which offers cognitive, social, emotional, and physical benefits.

ST. MARY'S VISITATION

Catholic School † Elm Grove, WI

St. Mary's Visitation Catholic Parish School exists to direct children toward God and toward Christian service to society through Catholic religious formation, academic challenge and continuous improvement.