

This guide provides an overview of what your child will be learning in **second grade**. It is based on the Common Core Standards, the Massachusetts Frameworks, and the curricular approaches which have been adopted by the Somerville Public Schools. Read the Massachusetts Frameworks for more details.

Academic standards are important. They ensure that all students, no matter where they start, are prepared for success in the next grade level, college, and their careers. By defining standards clearly, we aim to help families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed. There are some students who will need additional support to meet a standard. Other students will need more complex work to go deeper with the standards. Teachers craft their day-to-day classroom instruction based on the standards, individual student needs, and the unique characters of their schools and community.

How can I support my child's learning at home?

- Talk to your child about what they are learning in school
- Contact your child's teacher with any questions or concerns and attend Parent Teacher Conferences
- Check your child's folder and/or agenda book every night
- Provide a space and a consistent time for your child to complete their homework

English Language Arts

For curriculum, we use FUNdations for Phonics, Heggarty for Phonological Awareness, and In-District developed reading and writing units based on "Science of Reading" principles and the recommendations of the National Reading Panel. Student's reading progress is monitored using the DIBELS reading assessment.

Reading

During the year, students in second grade will be working on:

- Reading fiction and nonfiction texts
- Demonstrating an understanding of the characters, setting, and plot through retelling the story
- Understanding the problem in the story and what actions the character takes to solve the problem
- Recognizing differences in the points of view of characters
- Asking and answering such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how as part of reading texts
- Understanding the difference between the topic and the main idea in nonfiction texts
- Identifying the main idea and key details in nonfiction texts
- Using various text features (e.g., captions, bold print, subheadings, glossaries, indexes) to find information
- Noticing that poems use beat, rhymes, and repeated lines to create rhythm and meanings
- Comparing multiple texts on one topic to get information and explaining what they've learned in their own words
- Retelling stories from diverse cultures along with the lesson the story teaches
- Telling how two versions of the same story are alike and different (for example, Cinderella)
- Using phonics skills and sight words to read. (Phonics skills are also explicitly taught directly using the FUNdations Curriculum)
- Reading stories and poems aloud fluently, without pausing to figure out what each word means
- Participating in conversations and discussions by following rules (for example, speaking one at a time, listening to others), building on other's comments, and asking questions for further clarification

Writing

Somerville's writing program emphasizes giving students many opportunities to write each day across subject areas. As they write during the year, students in second grade will be working on:

- Writing a paragraph that introduces an idea and supports it with details
- Writing ideas in an order that makes sense to the reader
- Using time words to signal event order (during, meanwhile, before, soon, after)
- Using adjectives to make writing clear and interesting to the reader (for example, enormous, foggy, challenging)
- Starting sentences in different ways
- Connecting two ideas in one sentence (compound sentence) using and, but, or so
- Using commas to separate words in a series
- Making sure that nouns and verbs agree (for example, the dog is sitting on the bed; the two dogs are sitting)
- Correctly spelling grade level words using resources if needed
- Capitalizing proper nouns (for example, Somerville, John)

Over the course of the year, students will complete three types of writing: narrative (story), informative, and opinion. Examples of these in second grade could include: Writing a book about a family member, writing an opinion about a character in a story, or writing a different ending to a folktale.

How can I support my child's literacy learning at home?

- Read to your child daily
- Encourage your child to read daily and discuss the books he/she is reading
- When your child shares an opinion or thought about a book, ask them why? and have them use evidence from the book
- Encourage your child to write by keeping a diary, or sending a thank you note or letter to family or friends



Mathematics

Illustrative Mathematics (IM) curriculum districtwide in Grades K-8. You can find more information for families in this document.

During the year, students in the second grade will be working on:

- Counting by 5s, 10s, 100s
- Figuring out whether a number is even or odd
- Solving challenging addition and subtraction word problems with one or two steps
- Quickly and accurately adding with a sum of 20 or less (e.g., $11 + 8$)
- Quickly and accurately subtracting from a number of 20 or less (e.g., $16 - 9$)
- Understanding what the digits mean in three-digit numbers (place value) - (e.g., 857 is 8 hundreds + 5 tens + 7 ones)
- Comparing three-digit numbers using $<$, $>$, and $=$
- Mentally adding or subtracting 10 or 100 to a number (e.g., $757 + 10$, $837 - 100$)
- Using understanding of place value and different strategies to add and subtract up to three-digit numbers (e.g., $811 - 367$)
- Solving addition and subtraction word problems involving money or length
- Estimating the length of objects using inches, feet, centimeters, and meters
- Using rulers to measure objects by centimeters and inches
- Telling and writing time to the nearest 5 minutes
- Recognizing a variety of 2D and 3D shapes (triangles, quadrilaterals, pentagons, hexagons, and cubes) and explaining what makes them different (for example, number of sides, faces, angles)
- Drawing a simple bar graph or picture graph and solving a problem by reading a graph
- Breaking down circles and rectangles into equal halves, thirds, and quarters

How can I support my child's math learning at home?

- Point out examples of using math in everyday life such as measuring a room or estimating the cost of items at a store
- Practice newly acquired skills with your child at home to help build confidence (for example, math facts, addition, subtraction)

Social Studies

During the year, students in the second grade will be learning:

- About citizens' rights and responsibilities
- To locate and name the continents, oceans, major rivers, and major mountain ranges
- Map and globe skills
- To locate continents, regions, and countries from which students, parents, grandparents, and ancestors came
- To find examples of traditions or customs from other countries found in America today
- About individuals recognized for their achievements in all fields

Science, Technology, and Engineering

During the year, students in the second grade will be learning:

- That different types of materials have different properties and can be classified by their texture, hardness, color, or flexibility
- That when a chunk of material is cut or broken into pieces, each piece is still the same material however small each piece is
- That some changes to materials can be reversed by heating or cooling, while some cannot be reversed
- How different plants and animals depend on their surroundings and other living things to meet their needs in the places they live
- That different kinds of animals and plants live in different areas
- How to map the shapes and types of landforms and bodies of water in an area
- How blowing wind and flowing water can move Earth materials from one place to another and change the shape of a landform
- To compare multiple solutions designed to slow or prevent wind or water from changing the shape of the land.

Social/Emotional

The elementary years are an important time to nurture social-emotional competence and develop foundational learning skills. Somerville Public Schools uses the Second Step curriculum, an evidence-based program that includes everything schools need to integrate social-emotional learning into their classrooms and school-wide. The curriculum is designed to promote school success, self-regulation, and a sense of safety and support. Classroom teachers are responsible for implementing Second Step. Schools guidance counselors and other support personnel assist teachers and students to work toward attaining curriculum goals. Staff at your child's school can give you more detailed information about the sequence of skills taught and how social/emotional skills are taught.

Second Grade Lessons:

UNIT 1: Growth Mindset and Goal Setting

1. How to Get Good at Something
2. What Mistakes Tell Us
3. Helpful and Unhelpful Thoughts
4. We Can Change Our Thoughts
5. Learn and Get Better

UNIT 2: Emotional Management

6. Feeling Proud
7. Feeling Disappointed
8. Help Yourself Feel Better
9. Different Feelings
10. How Do You Feel?

UNIT 3: Empathy and Kindness

11. What's Empathy?
12. Empathy in Action
13. Having Empathy
14. Empathy at School
15. Empathy and Kindness

UNIT 4: Problem Solving

16. The Way to Say a Problem
17. Thinking of Solutions
18. Which Solution?
19. What Would I Want?
20. Be a Problem Solver

Specialists

Somerville Public Schools provides each student with 40 minutes per week of instruction in General Music, Library/Media, Art, and Physical Education. The specialists at each school are available to give you more detailed information about specific skills addressed.