

## Grade 2 Level Benchmarks *continued*

### Library/Media Skills

In grade two, students will enhance their previously learned library skills and develop new skills that can assist them in the classroom work and in the public library setting.

#### **Expectations for students:**

- Identify various parts of books including title page, author, illustrator, table of contents
- Be introduced to basic reference materials including dictionaries, encyclopedias, atlases, World Almanac for Kids
- Learn how to locate materials in the media center collection using OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog)
- Use alphabetical order to locate materials in the media center
- Locate chapter fiction books, picture books, non-fiction books and magazines
- Participate in book discussions and interpret information
- Learn about other cultures by reading folktales and non-fiction from other countries
- Compare and contrast similar folktales and fairytales
- Become familiar with the basic arrangement of the non-fiction collection and exposure to selections in each Dewey Decimal class

### Wellness

Our Physical Education and Health program is fully integrated and follows national and state standards. It provides sequential and progressive opportunities for the development of motor skills, physical fitness, team building and responsible decision-making. Students will recognize the benefits and see the value of physical activities and responsible decisions toward a healthy lifestyle.

**The following concepts are reviewed and enhanced:**

### Health

- Social Skills
- Safety and accident prevention
- Growth and development
- Substance abuse prevention

### Music

The study of music is a vital part of our total education. Instruction will provide opportunities for children to enjoy themselves while engaging in various musical experiences.

#### **Music objectives focus on:**

- **Singing** (pitch matching, vocal tone, rounds, canons, and simple ostinatos)
- **Movement** (action and dance movements to songs)
- **Playing Instruments** (variety of percussion)
- **Listening** (variety of styles and periods from classical to contemporary with emphasis on tempo, dynamics, instruments and rhythmic patterns)
- **Reading/Notation** (recognizing music symbols and rhythmic patterns)
- **Creating** (improvising and dramatizing to express music)

### Physical Education

- Body and spatial awareness
- Jumping and landing
- Chasing, dodging and fleeing
- Rolling
- Balancing and weight transfer
- Dribbling with hands
- Kicking and punting
- Throwing and catching
- Volleying
- Striking
- Fitness

## 2010-2011 HUDSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



## Grade 2 Level Benchmarks

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Dear Parents,

This document provides you with a preview of the skills, knowledge, and concepts that are at the core of learning for this grade level. It also gives you a snapshot of what school life is like in Grade 2. "Benchmark" is a word used to identify target skills we seek to focus on and to develop in a particular year.

Teachers seek an active partnership with parents. Your involvement is critical to your child's success in school. Each teacher combines individual creativity with district-wide goals. Different teaching strategies will be used in the instruction of these skills and concepts.

Please make opportunities to reinforce the skills developed in Grade 2 in your home. Each teacher sends home information about tasks you can do at home. We invite you to meet with your child's teachers so that you will understand how you can reinforce what is taught in your child's classroom.



# Grade 2 Level Benchmarks

## Typical Day

A second grader's day incorporates each of the main subject areas, however, topics or themes from one area may be integrated across all subject areas. A routine day usually consists of a language arts block. This includes process writing, reading, spelling, listening and speaking. The day also consists of math and social studies or science. In addition, children attend music, art, physical education and library classes each week. There is a supervised recess time every day. Each classroom operates on its own individual time schedule. Please contact the teacher for the specific times and routines of the week.



## Language Arts Philosophy

Communication is essential to lifelong learning and successful participation in today's world. Since reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing are keys to thinking and learning, instruction in the language arts is integrated into all disciplines. Lessons build upon prior knowledge and skill development, progressing from mastery of simple concepts of print to understanding the structure and meaning of language.

In addition, students need to be immersed in language throughout their day. Therefore, teachers and – most importantly – parents, must provide opportunities for children to become literate. As students progress through the grades, these experiences with language help them reach the goal of becoming independent thinkers and learners.

Learning to read and write is a developmental process. Parents will observe their second grade students at different stages and rates of learning as they move from beginning to more advanced readers and writers. Reading and writing throughout the day fosters growth and enthusiasm. Second graders also need us to read to them daily and to see us read and write regularly too.

## Speaking and Listening

### Expectations for students:

- Listen to literature
- Listen to ideas of others
- Use information presented orally
- Respond to all direction/questions
- Elicit and contribute additional information extending responses when asked
- Participate in discussion with appropriate tone and clarity
- Communicate ideas effectively in an organized and cohesive manner with meaningful connections

## Reading

Reading instruction is done in a variety of ways. The children work in large groups, small flexible groups, and read teacher-selected and self-selected materials. They read books, magazines, poetry and other materials to meet their individual reading goals. Students move from being guided by the teacher to becoming independent readers.

### Expectations for students:

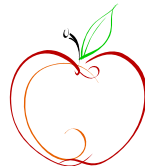
- Use a variety of reading strategies
- Read orally with fluency and expression
- Understand and use new vocabulary
- Read, identify and respond to a variety of literary forms
- Identify story elements
- Demonstrate comprehension by predicting, interpreting, inferencing, recalling and retelling of story
- Read independently

## Writing

Writing is a process which includes pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing and publishing. Spelling skills, as well as grammar and punctuation, are emphasized in the editing stage of this process.

### Expectations for students:

- Initiate own writing
- Create a plan for writing a piece using the writing process
- Write a variety of genres
- Express thoughts clearly and stay on topic
- Include descriptive words and details
- Use voice in writing
- Apply the conventions of grammar, punctuation and spelling at the appropriate level



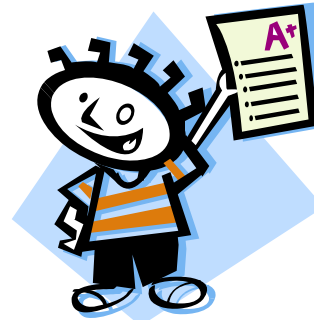
## Math

Math skills in second grade developmentally begin to build from concrete, manipulative-based learning to more abstract, independent thinking about where and how numbers are part of our everyday lives. Students work in both large and small groups learning concepts and practicing skills in:

- Number Sense and Operations
- Equations and Inequalities
- Patterns
- Relations and Functions
- Shapes
- Geometric Relationships
- Transformational Geometry
- Measurement
- Statistics
- Probability

## Science

Young children are naturally curious and eager to investigate science ideas. They learn best when given opportunities to explore familiar materials, then share and compare their ideas with others. Students will use science, language arts and



mathematics tools and skills to observe, predict, record, describe and compare natural phenomena.

## Social Studies

Second grade students study the features of their neighborhood and community in more detail. They will learn about the history of their community and examine its present day characteristics. Students will learn about the characteristics and key roles in local gov-

### Homework

Teachers assign homework for a variety of purposes:

- to practice and reinforce skills
- extend and apply previously learned skills
- integrate skills
- establish responsibility

ernment as they deepen their understanding of concepts such as authority, justice and responsibility. This unit of study serves as a basis for studying rural, urban, and suburban communities. Community study will be done in a variety of perspectives including geographic, social-economic, historical, civic and ethnic/cultural.