

Dear Parent,



We're excited to have your child in Second Grade at Whitmore Lake Elementary School.

This is a very important year in your child's life, and we're pleased to be part of it.

At school, we're building on the skills that your child has already learned and we're introducing new ones. See this side of the brochure for details about what we're doing this year in English and Language Arts.

At home, your child can practice the skills we're learning at school. See the other side of this brochure for easy things that you can do to encourage that practice.

By working together, we can make sure that your child acquires the skills he or she needs to be successful in school and life.

We look forward to working with you and your child this year. When you have questions, please feel free to contact us at 449-2051.

Sincerely,
The Second Grade Teachers

In every grade, we teach English/Language Arts skills that will help students:

Communicate Ideas

- Read and understand fiction and non-fiction materials.
- Write clear and correct sentences, paragraphs and compositions
- Create meaning as they listen, speak, view, read and write.
- Use language to express ideas to different audiences and for different purposes.



Understand Literature

- Read, respond to, and reflect on ideas found in a variety of materials.
- Explore and reflect on universal themes in oral, visual, and written texts.
- Apply what is learned to everyday life.

Use Language

- Identify and use correct spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- Describe and use various story elements.
- Use main ideas with supporting details in writing.
- Express ideas creatively.
- Explore and use tools found in books and media to help with understanding.

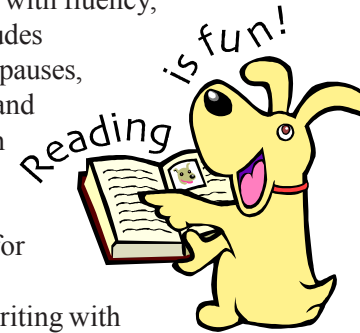
Apply Knowledge

- Develop and use strategies to connect what they're learning to their lives.
- Check their own progress when using these strategies.
- Evaluate their work using set guidelines.

In Second Grade, we teach English/Language Arts skills that will help your child:

Communicate Ideas

- Use multiple strategies to decode words as they construct meaning including phonics rules, context clues, and prediction.
- Use structural analysis (phonics rules, compound words, syllables) and syntax (plurals, past tense, active verbs, prefixes and suffixes) to recognize words in context.
- Make progress in acquiring basic sight words and begin to internalize previously learned skills and strategies.
- Read aloud with fluency, which includes intonation, pauses, emphasis, and punctuation cues.
- Develop a main idea for writing.
- Organize writing with a beginning, middle, and end.
- Use common grammatical structures—subject/verb agreement, capitalization, contractions, periods, question marks, exclamation points, plurals, and verb tenses.
- Give presentations or reports on topics for different types of audiences, and as listeners, ask appropriate questions during a presentation or report.
- Evaluate messages they receive in media, and distinguish between fact and opinion.
- Compare what is heard with prior knowledge and experience.



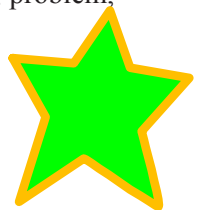
- Integrate listening, speaking, viewing, reading, and writing skills to write a personal narrative.
- Use language to express ideas to different audiences and for different purposes
- Use appropriate language for story discussion, thank-you letters, science lessons.

Understand Literature

- Select, read, listen to, view, and respond thoughtfully to classic and contemporary texts (e.g. , fables, drama, poetry, and trade books).
- Identify the central purpose, major ideas and supporting ideas in expository (informational) texts.
- Describe/discuss similarities of plot and character. Understand that characters in literature and other texts can often represent several different cultures or communities.

Use Language

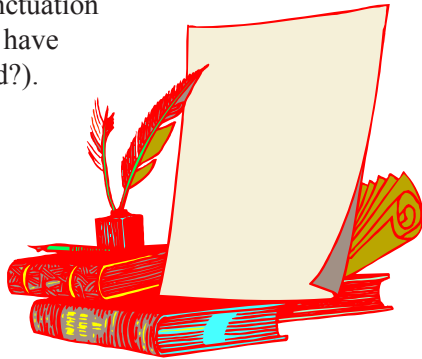
- Apply phonics rules, use dictionaries or word walls, and proofread their work to improve spelling, grammar, and punctuation.
- Describe characters, setting, problem, events, and solutions in stories and be able to retell the plot of a story.
- Respond to texts by discussing, illustrating, or writing in order to make connections, share understanding, take a position, or reflect.
- Use diagrams, maps, graphs, boldface type, and charts contained in informational texts to aid in understanding.



In Second Grade, we teach English/Language Arts skills that will help your child:

Apply Knowledge

- Use prior knowledge and discussion (e.g., What do I know? and What do I want to know?), graphic organizers (e.g., Venn diagrams, word webs), reading strategies (e.g., context clues), ask questions, and make predictions in order to increase understanding of texts.
- Be guided to develop standards of writing so as to evaluate their written work and that of others (e.g., Is my idea for writing clear? Is my writing organized into a beginning, middle, and end? Did I choose interesting words to tell about my idea? Did I remember to use the punctuation rules I have learned?).



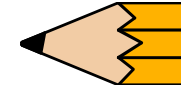
Communicate Ideas

- Get your child a library card and visit the library together, regularly.
- Read aloud to your child every day. Choose all kinds of material.
- Talk to your child about his or her activities, ideas, or feelings on a daily basis.
- Ask questions about the movies you watch together.
- Model good listening for your child by being a good listener when your child is speaking to you.
- Encourage conversations at home (dinner together, a "No TV" night).
- Talk about television programs, ads, movies, books, etc., to distinguish fact from opinion.



Understand Literature

- Ask "wh" questions as you read a book together or when your child is talking about a book (Who, What, When, etc.).
- Have your child retell the story/information after reading including as many details as possible. What happened at the beginning? Middle? End?



Use Language

- Have your child keep a diary of family trips, etc.
- Write notes to your child and put them in his/her lunch.
- Encourage your child to write stories.

Apply Knowledge

- Give your child a reason to write (thank you notes, a journal, a grocery list).
- Help your child make connections between what is read and himself or herself. Make these connections by relating current selections to other material read and what your child knows about the world.




Whitmore Lake Elementary School

In Second Grade, we're teaching your child important reading and language skills.

What are these skills?

How can you help your child practice them?



...exceptional,
personalized education

For more good ideas, ask your child's teacher, or contact:
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(734) 449-2051 • <http://www.wlps.net>