

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 Social Studies.

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 Social Studies skills that will help students:

Express informed opinions

- Gather information from books, maps, newspapers, graphs, charts, and timelines.
- Construct maps, graphs, and timelines.
- Investigate why different people have different points of view.
- Take a position on an issue and defend it.

Think historically

- Understand time and order of events.
- Comprehend, analyze, and interpret the past.
- Judge the causes and effects of key, historical decisions.

Describe our world

- Explain global issues and events.
- Describe, compare, and explain location, characteristics of people, places, cultures.
- Understand the human impact on the environment.
- Understand how the environment affects trade and economies.

Be effective citizens

- Be a good citizen by following laws, rules.
- Know purposes of governing bodies and assess their effectiveness.
- Know the core Democratic values.
- Compare checks and balances at all government levels.
- Recognize that nations in the world interact with one another.

Make informed economic decisions

- Explain goods and services.
- Describe supply and demand.

In Second Grade, we teach Social Studies skills that will help your child:

Express informed opinions

- Identify problems within the community and discuss ways of solving those problems (e.g., litter, speeding, etc.).
- Brainstorm, write, and draw examples of problems in students' communities and discuss their prevention and solution.



Think historically

- Learn about the geography, history, government, and economy of the local community.
- With a timeline, books, and photographs, learn about the history and formation of Whitmore Lake from prehistoric times (e.g., inland sea, Wisconsin Glacier, Native Americans, first settlers) to the present.

Describe our world

- Identify the groups and regions (including family and neighborhood) to which students belong.
- Define a local community, compare and contrast it with other communities, and describe how student's local communities enable people to meet their basic needs.
- Learn about the geography of students' local communities, including natural features (environment), human features (e.g., houses, public buildings), and their communities' locations relative to other communities.

- Use mapping concepts to label on a map key features of communities (e.g., Main Street, elementary school, Whitmore Lake, etc.).

Be effective citizens

- Recognize that school rules and community laws are meant to keep a community safe.
- Learn about community helpers who keep students safe (police, fire fighters, doctors, road construction, etc.).
- Visit the Northfield Township Fire/Police Department.
- Learn that citizens elect their government, and discover that students, too, have a voice by regularly voting on group decisions within their own classrooms.

Make informed economic decisions

- Learn about "goods" and "services" offered in Whitmore Lake.
- Learn to make decisions through a model economy in which students produce goods (e.g., bookmarks) and provide services (e.g., movie theater, banking) to their fellow classmates.
- Make decisions about handling money earned (model economy) to satisfy wants and needs.





- Teach your child the proper procedures for emergency situations, including when to dial 911.
- Use a real map to locate where you might go on a trip or where a family member lives.
- Create a simple map of your home/your child's room or backyard.



Be effective citizens

- Discuss with your child why rules are necessary in your family.
- Encourage behavior that is kind to others.
- Allow your child to experience the consequences when s/he does not abide by ordinary rules.
- Remind your child what "good choices" are.
- Discuss our government's leaders with your child so that s/he understands the roles of president, governor, and mayor.

Make informed economic decisions

- Give your child situations in which s/he can decide which object is more important to purchase.
- Discuss the value of a decision your child might make when purchasing an item.
- Help your child understand the difference between "wants" and "needs."
- Give him/her the opportunity to earn money and spend or save it for specific wants or needs.

Express informed opinions

- Talk about what makes your family special.

Think historically

- Have your child "interview" a relative and ask how their life was the same/different than his or hers.
- Talk about your family traditions and discuss why you do the special things you do when you celebrate a holiday.
- Help your child make a photo album of his/her pictures and put them in chronological order.
- Visit Greenfield Village or museums and discuss the differences between "then" and "now."
- Discuss with your child how your choices in your family affect his or her life.



Describe our world

- Be sure your child knows his/her address and phone number.



In Second Grade,
we're teaching
your child
important
citizenship 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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