

September 2020

Dear Second Grade Families:

Welcome to Second Grade! Students in grade two participate in a variety of classroom experiences to expand their love of learning and develop their academic, social and physical skills while increasing their own IMAGINATION. The following descriptions present a brief overview of the comprehensive program. Due to the nature of instructional delivery at this time, we have compacted Curriculum to best meet student needs.

i-Ready Diagnostic and Personalized Path: This year, our students will take the i-Ready diagnostic. This diagnostic is a short series of questions that will help teachers know how to group students so that we can best address student needs and build on their strengths. The i-Ready diagnostic is administered on the computer and then the program creates a personalized series of games and activities unique for each student. We ask that each student spend 10 - 15 minutes each day on reading and math i-Ready activities for homework or asynchronous learning time. To learn more about i-Ready, please go to www.aacps.org/iready.

Language Arts: Second grade students continue to develop and expand their literacy skills in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, language conventions, and speaking and listening by engaging in a variety of lessons and activities based on the Maryland College and Career Readiness Standards and the Anne Arundel County Literacy Curriculum. Students come to a deeper understanding of how to apply their early skills in reading and comprehending more complex literary and informational texts. Students respond to text-dependent questions and write to source after reading. As writers, they learn how to develop and organize their own ideas and incorporate the conventions of writing as they write opinion, informative and narrative pieces. Students continue to practice handwriting skills through writing.

Mathematics: The Anne Arundel County Public Schools Integrated Mathematics PreK-5 Program has implemented the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards through the transdisciplinary curriculum. These standards are a set of high-quality academic goals which provide rigor, focus, and coherence to prepare our students to be college and career ready by the time they graduate from high school. Students will acquire mathematical concepts and be able to apply them to various real-life situations. The mathematical domains taught in Grade 2 include:

- Operations & Algebraic Thinking – representing and solving problems with addition and subtraction
- Number & Operations in Base Ten – understand place value and properties of addition and subtraction
- Geometry - shapes and their attributes
- Measurement and Data - estimate and measure length

During the time of Virtual Learning, math topics have been narrowed to include essential grade level standards, guided by the work of NCTM, NCSM and Achieve the Core. With abbreviated time dedicated to teaching mathematics, it is important for students to continue their practice on math concepts using their Ready Common Core work text, the i-Ready platform and First In Math. Students can access both digital programs through ClassLink. Students can practice mathematics in a variety of ways at home including counting steps from the house to the playground, counting items while they clean their room, cooking with a family member and through basic play.

Science and Social Studies: The Science and Social Studies learning block is designed to actively engage students in interdisciplinary applications and learning. Using the platform of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and Social Studies C3 standards, students develop questions and investigate inquiries as scientists, social scientists, environmentalists, engineers, and informed citizens. Throughout the learning block of Science and Social Studies, students are encouraged to observe, collect, and evaluate data and evidence to communicate conclusions and take informed action about topics being studied. Students are applying their classroom learning to real world scenarios and digging into how to make a difference in their communities. All lessons are designed to investigate, study, and answer a daily Exploration Question. Other MSDE standards/lessons being addressed within the Science and Social Studies block are: Health, Guidance, Counseling, Financial Literacy, Environmental Literacy and the MSDE Primary Talent Development Lessons.

English Language Acquisition Program (ESOL): English Language Acquisition (ELA) classes comply with the requirements of Title III of ESSA. The goal of English Language Acquisition instruction is to enable English Learners to construct meaning from oral and written language, express complex ideas and information, as well as access grade-level instruction across content areas. In order to accomplish this goal, the ELA curriculum is based on WIDA English Language Development (ELD) standards:

- Social and Instructional Language
- The Language of Language Arts
- The Language of Math
- The Language of Science
- The Language of Social Studies

The WIDA English Language Development standards framework represents the social, instructional, and academic language that students need to engage with peers, educators, and grade-level content curriculum. As such, the framework for teaching language is integrated with the Maryland State Standards for College and Career Readiness, as well as National and State Content Standards. All students who have been identified as eligible to receive English Language Acquisition services will take WIDA ACCESS for ELLs, the annual assessment to measure English Language Proficiency.

Environmental Literacy: Students answer the question: How can we improve wildlife habitats? Integrated as part of the science unit, students learn that plants and animals are adapted to specific habitats. Students learn that human activities often harm habitats, which threatens plants and animals. Students take action to improve habitats for wildlife in their schoolyard or home.

Technology: Students increase and promote creativity, communicate and collaborate with others and gather, evaluate and analyze information and data. They solve problems and make decisions in a manner that demonstrates their understanding of the social, ethical, and human issues related to technology.

We are looking forward to a year of learning for your second grader. If you desire additional information, please contact your child's teacher.

Sincerely,

WRL/pmw