

Second Grade: The Building Year



The second-grade year builds upon the skills learned and understandings grasped in first grade. Students expand their knowledge of subject areas as they also develop confidence and proficiency in basic reading and math skills. All areas of the curriculum branch out into a wider arc as students build a greater understanding of God's world.

The program of instruction in second-grade classes at Brentwood Christian School includes a wide variety of developmentally appropriate activities and studies. Teachers write curriculum for each area of study based on the school's philosophy and goals. In areas where texts are used, the teachers review publications from both Christian and secular publishers, select the best material, and write curriculum which employs that material. Studies and activities in each class are based upon the following guidelines:

BIBLE - Part of our mission statement at BCS is to "lead students to love God". In order for students to love God, they must first know Him and his Word. EL3/4 through 12th-grade students explore God's word in Bible class by hearing and studying the Bible stories of both the Old and New Testaments and participating in discussions and activities where they can apply the lessons learned through those stories in order to lead lives of Christian service and leadership. All studies include application to daily life. The content of the Bible curriculum is interwoven and integrated with all other curriculum areas.

CHAPEL - Is held weekly with EL3/4 through 5th grade in attendance; about once every four to six weeks an all-community chapel assembly is held, and secondary students pair up with elementary students for the service. Chapel services have lessons that focus on character traits growing out of scriptural lessons and include singing and prayer. Most chapel services conclude with the principal's announcements or recognitions.

LANGUAGE ARTS - Includes reading, spelling, English, and handwriting and continues phonetic training to reinforce decoding skills as needed. Language arts also applies vocabulary, comprehension, and reading skills in all content areas; applies spelling patterns, basic grammar, usage, and punctuation skills in the writing process; and uses listening, speaking, and writing skills to produce poetry, journals, stories, and student-made books. Teachers work individually and with small groups through the Daily 5 and Writing Workshop programs to tailor instruction to student needs. This grade integrates literature themes with Bible lessons, science, and social studies. It also requires reading from anthologies as well as trade books and encourages daily independent reading at home.

Texts currently in use: *Gobs of Grammar*, *Rockin' Resource Interactive Writing*, and Abeka spelling and phonics skill building. Students develop writing, language, and reading comprehension skills through practice and independent reading.

MATHEMATICS - Emphasizes mathematical concepts and computation skills, stresses mastery of basic addition and subtraction facts, teaches two-digit addition and subtraction, and introduces multiplication concepts. This grade uses manipulatives extensively to enhance understanding of mathematical concepts, explores concepts of number relationships, measurement, fractions, and geometry, and applies concepts and skills in problem-solving.

Text currently in use: *Big Ideas Math: Modeling Real Life*, Cengage. Students will practice concepts taught in the classroom.

SCIENCE - Explores the wonders of God's creation in topics of life, earth, and physical sciences. This grade examines topics such as air, weather, balance, motion, insects, plants, and the earth. It also emphasizes experience and involvement in scientific processes through hands-on investigations.

Text currently in use: Full Option Science System, Texas edition by Delta Education.

HEALTH - Includes studies in nutrition, exercise and fitness, safety, drug awareness, and general care of our health that recognizes it as a gift from God.

Text currently in use: Teacher-created materials

SOCIAL STUDIES - Focuses on the world around us through unit studies in people working together, meeting needs and wants, and living in the world God created. This curriculum includes studies in geography, American history, traditions, heroes, holidays, and other countries and their cultures. This class includes several special mini-unit studies.

Text currently in use: *We Explore People and Places*, Savvas myWorld, Pearson, and videos.

SPANISH - Taught by a Spanish teacher once a week. Spanish class incorporates singing, movement, and games to provide an opportunity to learn basic vocabulary and develop a positive attitude toward language learning. Students will sing children's worship music in Spanish and participate in activities in Spanish based on Bible stories that many of the students are already familiar with in English. The teacher uses repetition and visuals to maximize learning potential. Through this class, students will appreciate that God loves all people and can be worshiped in different languages while learning basic vocabulary and songs!

ART - Taught in thirty-minute classes on a rotation each week with music class and integrated into the other core curriculum on a regular basis. Art uses a variety of media including crayons, markers, tempera, chalk, and watercolors. This study develops skills such as drawing, coloring, cutting and pasting, and painting. This unit encourages the use of imagination and exposes students to the work of well-known artists from various periods and styles.

MUSIC - Taught by a trained music teacher in thirty-minute classes on a rotation each week with art class. Music emphasizes singing and movement and basic ukulele instruction. This study introduces early music concepts such as rhythm and beat, pitch, volume, and tempo and combines musical training/appreciation with performance opportunities in the annual Christmas and Grandparents' Day programs.

Text currently in use: *Spotlight on Music*, Macmillan/McGraw-Hill. Students are introduced to music selections and music terminology.

DRAMATICS - Included with various studies such as Bible (re-enactments of biblical stories), language arts (play-acting scenes from children's literature), and role-playing when working through interpersonal problems. This study also incorporates movement activities used widely throughout the day. Dramatics includes exposure to dramatic presentations by a variety of traveling theatrical troupes and Christian drama groups.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - Taught by physical education teachers daily during a thirty-minute class taking place in the gym and on outdoor fields. This class includes conditioning exercises, physical games and activities, and athletic skills.

COMPUTER LAB - Conducted weekly by a trained computer teacher. Students in second grade will begin using technology as an integrated tool. They will gain more sophisticated knowledge of basic computer functions and software applications and how to apply technology as a problem-solving tool. They will learn to use online safety and ethical behavior while using browsers and conducting research online. Word processing, spreadsheet software, and touch typing will be introduced. During the fourth quarter, students will continue learning basic coding/programming by adding concepts such as conditionals, algorithms, binary code, and debugging.

Text currently in use: *Easy Tech*, Learning.com. Students will learn to communicate, construct, evaluate, collaborate, and create using technology.

LIBRARY - Students have a daily opportunity to visit the library to check out books for independent reading. They have a regularly scheduled story time and check-out time each week with the librarian.

FIELD TRIPS - Taken in connection with and to enhance subject area studies. Field trips include such destinations as Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Paramount Theatre, and the Thinkery.

RECESS - A thirty-minute daily play time on the outside playground. Both second-grade classes enjoy this time for unstructured play together.

SOCIALIZATION - Under the watchful guidance and with the encouragement of the teacher, social skills are practiced at recess and during daily activities. Problem-solving strategies in the context of Christian values are modeled and practiced.

HOMEWORK - Assigned daily including independent reading, spelling mastery, math skills, Bible memory work, and studying for science and social studies tests. See Handbook for time guidelines for each grade.