



Learning Across the Year

• Second Grade •

Great Falls Public Schools is committed to...

Vision: All kids engaged in learning today...for life tomorrow.

Mission: We successfully educate students to navigate their future.

This document provides a broad overview of what your child will be learning in each of the content areas. For a more detailed look at the complete curriculum for 2nd grade, go to: www.gfps.k12.mt.us

Reading

In second grade, students become fluent as readers and apply comprehension and vocabulary strategies to a wide variety of literary and informational text. They demonstrate comprehension by participating in discussions, writing responses, and using evidence from text to support their thinking. Students are able to ask and answer questions about reading, identify the message and main purpose of a text, as well as being able to identify and compare and contrast points of view. Reading for pleasure continues to be an enjoyable habit.

Writing

Students make significant progress as they move from single-idea and patterned sentences to more detailed and sequential text, often including more than one event or descriptive element. Students make some conscious word choices. Sentence structures are varied within a single piece of writing. Students write in a variety of forms, including opinion writing, narrative writing and informational writing. Students notice mistakes while rereading and revise by adding details.

Handwriting

Second graders continue to engage in functional writing practice that leads to printing mastery using the program Handwriting Without Tears. In the second half of the year, students are introduced to cursive handwriting using a multisensory approach. Students will begin basic keyboarding instruction and practice in the spring.



Language

Students in second grade understand and correctly use capitalization and punctuation and are encouraged to use correct grammar when reading, writing and speaking.

Speaking and Listening

In second grade, students take part in class discussions by listening to others, taking turns when speaking, and linking comments to the comments of others. They are encouraged to speak clearly to ask questions and communicate ideas, thoughts and feelings.

Math

Second graders become fluent in writing and renaming numbers in a variety of ways. Students focus on what it means to add and subtract as they become fluent with single-digit addition and subtraction facts and develop addition and subtraction procedures for two-digit numbers. Students make sense of the procedures by building on what they know about place value and number relationships and putting together and taking apart sets of objects. Students tell time on different types of clocks, identify coins and determine the value of a collection of coins, and measure items using both standard tools as well as objects. By the end of second grade, students should master basic addition and subtraction facts.

Science

Second graders develop investigative science skills and content through hands-on experience. Students will investigate interesting questions in a way that mirrors how science is done in the real world.



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Social Studies

Second graders develop social skills through experiences centered around the topics: Our World, continents, landforms, natural resources, cultural diversity, communities, climate, transportation, Native Americans, folk and tall tales and citizenship.

Music

Second graders listen, respond to and present music. They learn basic music symbols for notes, terms, and signs. They learn how to tell how many beats are in a measure and identify AB and ABA patterns in music.

Physical Education/Health Enhancement

Students learn body and space awareness, manipulative and fine motor skills, endurance and flexibility in PE. Other topics covered include nutrition, safety and fitness.

Technology

Students will explore and use a variety of digital tools to create group projects and to communicate ideas.

Art

Second graders are encouraged to develop individual creativity through visual means. Students learn to use art materials, create works of art, respond to and analyze works of art and understand art influences.

Counseling

Counseling lessons focus on personal and social development, academic development and career development. Second graders learn to identify their own interests and strengths and understand the importance of making positive choices.

Library

Students learn effective and efficient ways to access information. They are encouraged to access and read information and literature for learning and enjoyment.

How to Help Your Child Learn at Home

Try to develop a routine where your child sits in a quiet place for 15 to 30 minutes daily to complete homework or reading. Sitting with your child will allow you the opportunity to see what he/she is learning. You will be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics.

- Read with your child every day. Assist your child by reading every other paragraph. Ask the librarian to suggest books that might be about topics your child is interested in. Read these together and ask your child to explain what he or she has just read.
- Look for “word problems” in real life. Ask your child how much money they need to purchase an item, how many more minutes until you leave, how much change is in your pocket, etc.
- Have your child write a thank you note or letter to family members or friends.
- Encourage your child to tell you about his or her day at school. Encourage them to elaborate to encourage the use of vocabulary. Don’t settle for one word answers. Ask specific questions or use the phrase “Tell me more.”
- Talk to your child while in the car, while cooking, or when completing every day tasks. Encourage your child to listen by modeling good listening yourself. Ask questions to encourage multiple exchanges and listening behaviors.
- Play “draw the shape.” For example, ask your child to draw a hexagon with one side longer than the others. Ask him/her to shade in a quarter of a rectangle.