It’s time for second grade, and your child already knows a lot! They have some experience with school and have information in many areas. They may challenge you with their ability to remember facts. Their teachers recognize their interest in detail and are helping them to notice more about the characters, actions and descriptions in what they read. They should be encouraged to write and retell stories with more detail as well and pay attention to the world around them in science and social studies.

Many second graders start to fear making mistakes. You can help them slow down to give accurate answers to math problems, look up and define new words, and take care with grammar and spelling. They need security and structure, so it helps to have familiar patterns and expectations at school and at home. Talk with your child’s teachers about how they spend time in class and outside school. Together you can create predictable routines to help your learner feel supported. Second graders can make lists and check progress. They can see the report card standards as challenges. Help them to believe in themselves and set goals for growth. But make room for laughter so they see that learning can be fun!

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) helps children manage emotions, set and achieve goals, express empathy, establish positive relationships, and make decisions. These skills are important for learning in school communities.

SEL skills are part of all subject areas so students learn and practice them through the school day. Teachers emphasize and evaluate these skills on elementary report cards:

- identifying strengths, feelings and needs
- seeking to understand others
- building cooperative relationships
- critical thinking
- decision making
- following safety standards and
- working through challenges

Teachers use the words Strength (S), Developing (D), and Emerging (E) to describe students’ SEL growth.

Strength = consistently uses skills across subjects and settings
Developing = uses skills in most subjects and settings
Emerging = beginning to use skills in some subjects and settings

Please visit seattleschools.org/academics/curriculum for more info on any subject area.
What Are 2nd Graders Learning in Math?

**Fluent** in math means “fast and accurate.” A goal for your child’s learning is for them to become fluent in their skills so they can move on to more complex mathematics.

In second grade math, students will become fluent in addition and subtraction within 20. They will also develop and discuss strategies for finding sums and differences within 100, count within 1000, use rulers and other measurement tools, and describe and analyze shapes based on their attributes.

Standards on the report card are organized by section:

- **Operations and Algebraic Thinking** is about the language, patterns and symbols of math;
- **Numbers and Operations in Base Ten** relates to the decimal system;
- **Measurement and Data** is about tracking sizes and amounts;
- **Geometry** is about shapes and dimensions.

For more information, visit the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction at: [www.k-12.wa.us/parents-families](http://www.k-12.wa.us/parents-families)

How Can Families Help Their Students in English/Language Arts?

**Second Grade students will learn and be able to:**

- Read and understand grade-level text of different types or genres, and figure out unknown words in reading
- Retell what is read, using key details from the text
- Ask questions about their reading
- Describe characters, settings, and events in stories
- Determine and identify topics and big ideas in a text
- Write with a beginning, middle, and end for different purposes
- Take part in collaborative conversations about their learning and what they have read

**Encourage reading at home with your child! Read to them or listen to them read every day!**

- Encourage your child to read independently every day
- Create a reading space that is comfortable and free from distraction
- Ask your child to tell you about their reading (questions they have, a favorite character, what they learned)
- Encourage your child to write in a journal or write and illustrate stories
- Go to the library and find books that your child is interested in reading

**Remember, listening to your child read and reading together with them are important ways to show that you value their learning!**
**What’s New in Elementary Science?**

This is a time for transition in science education, with teaching and learning focused on three key areas in Washington State Science Learning Standards:

1) Science/Engineering Practices used by professionals to explain the world or solve problems
2) Core Ideas that include fundamental scientific knowledge
3) Crosscutting Concepts frame scientific thinking across life, earth/space, physical sciences.

Your child’s report card shows Performance Expectations, for what students should be able to do by the end of a unit. The three dimensions are woven into each Performance Expectation.

**Engage in Science at Home!!**

Get outside together, taking time to notice, appreciate, and wonder about the natural world.

- Ask open-ended questions and take time to encourage thoughtful answers: “Tell me about what you made.” “What do you think caused the change?” “Can you think of a different way to do it?”

- Observe carefully and notice small details about natural and physical things like shapes in a spider web or types of bread.

- Make predictions and test how things work “How long will an ice cube last on the counter?” “Will it melt faster on another surface?”

- Encourage investigation. Try taking things apart to see how they work - from flowers to old appliances. Don’t worry about putting them back together!

- Let your child teach you by explaining or modelling through drawing, writing, or conversation.

- Challenge your student to argue from evidence. This is not fighting but using facts to explain their thinking. Ask: “How do you know that?” “Why is that so?”

You can support your child’s teacher by volunteering to help with classroom experiences or science related field trips.

**Science learning is powerful!**

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**What’s Important About Second Grade Social Studies?**

The report card shows five areas of social studies that you and your child can discuss:

- **Civics** - Understanding the role of government and involvement in a community

- **Economics** - Understanding that choices among goods and services have costs and benefits to a local community

- **Geography** - Gaining information from maps and globes; Understanding that people in a community impact the environment

- **History** - Using a timeline to show community events in a sequence

- **Social Studies Skills** - Using questions to find information in technology and print

Questions? Please visit seattleschools.org/academics/curriculum for more info on any subject area
PE and Arts are Part of Basic Education Too!

**Visual and Performing Arts**

Research shows that students with an arts education are more engaged, do better in school, and are more likely to graduate and participate in community life. In Seattle Public Schools, we want every student to receive a comprehensive, predictable arts education during their K-12 years.

Each elementary school offers different arts programs, from possibilities including visual arts, general music, theatre, dance, or instrumental music. Progress report standards come from the Washington State Arts Learning Standards, which focus on aspects of artistic process:

- **Creating:** developing new artistic ideas and work.
- **Performing:** interpreting and presenting artistic ideas / work.
- **Responding:** understanding and evaluating meaning in the arts.
- **Connecting:** Relating personally to artistic ideas and work.

The arts are a core subject!

**Physical Education**

In physical education, students build movement skills, knowledge, fitness, social well-being, and confidence so they can enjoy a healthy, active lifestyle. Seattle Public Schools is committed to providing a quality physical education program to help students develop in these areas.

Our Physical Education (PE) standards are based on motor and movement patterns and skills, as well as concepts like physical literacy, which is the ability, confidence and desire to be physically active for life. PE is an instructional program, which makes it different from recess, free play, recreational sports or athletics. PE teachers work with general education teachers to provide high quality instruction for an average of 100 minutes per week, which is required by Washington State law. Schools organize PE times in different ways, but all students should be learning about their physical selves all year long!

**Support the arts at home!**

Ask your children what they created today.

Have your child describe what their art is about.

Art is an area children experiment and make mistakes. Ask them to tell you about a “beautiful oops”

Make art together!

In every grade, SPS’ core work is supporting student learning.

We believe it is our responsibility to do whatever it takes to ensure that every child, regardless of race, gender, socioeconomic status, language proficiency, learning style or disability, achieves to their highest level.