

Bible

At Trinity School, there is no separation between the secular and the spiritual. A Christian worldview undergirds the curriculum, and biblical principles are integrated into all content areas. Second grade students engage in daily Bible reading, daily prayer, memorizing Scripture verses and singing praise songs.

The second grade Bible curriculum focuses on the history of God's faithfulness and provision for his people. This goal is accomplished through students studying the Old Testament with a focus on Abraham, Joseph, Moses and Joshua, memorizing and discussing Psalm 23, and studying the New Testament with a focus on the life of Jesus, His Birth, Crucifixion, and Resurrection.

SELECTED TEXTS

The Holy Bible, New International Version.

Egermeier, Elsie E. *Egermeier Story Bible*. Warner Press, 1969.

Keller, Phillip. *A Child's Look at the Twenty-third Psalm*. Doubleday, 1981.

Language Arts

Reading

The primary goal of the second grade reading program is to foster a love for reading that will extend through a lifetime of learning. The program expands the Phonographix method taught in first grade by strengthening students' decoding skills (i.e., reading by using sound-to-sound picture code). Students continue building reading fluency, expression, and comprehension skills through reading aloud, narration (retelling stories), class discussions, and written work.

Writing and Grammar

The focus of the second grade writing curriculum is to express thoughts through basic sentence structure. Attention is given to the appropriate use of capital letters, nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. Emphasis is also placed on proper use of punctuation: end marks, apostrophes, and commas.

Spelling

The second grade spelling curriculum builds upon the foundation of Phonographix. The following two main skills are developed: separating the sounds in words and knowing which sound pictures to use.

Handwriting

Handwriting in second grade focuses on forming letters correctly (e.g., size and spacing) and legibly using basic D'Nealian manuscript. In the second half of the year, D'Nealian cursive writing is introduced.

SELECTED TEXTS

Beeter, Carl, et.al. *Open Court Reading Curriculum: Slide Down the Sky, Level 2:1; From Sea to Shining Sea, Level 2:2*, Open Court Publishing Co, 1989.

Hall, Nancy, and Rena Price. *Explode the Code Book 6*. EPS, Inc., 1998.
Moore, Jo Ellen. *Daily Language Review 2*, Evan-Moor, 1998.
McGuiness, Carmen and Geoffry. *Phonographix Super Speller*. Read America, 1997.
Thurber, Donald. *D'Nealian Handwriting Book 2*. Scott Foresman, 1999.
Selected Novels

Math

The second grade math curriculum enables the students to develop a solid foundation in the language and the basic concepts of second grade mathematics. The concepts covered are time, measurement, money, fractions, geometry, number facts (e.g., multiplication facts 0-5), numeration (0-1000), graphing (e.g., bar and line). Students follow the Saxon Math 2 curriculum.

With Saxon Math, concepts are taught using morning meeting, lessons, guided class practice, homework, number fact practice, and a variety of math manipulates. These include wrap-ups, fact cards, clocks, geoboards, pattern blocks, tangrams, manipulatives, and geometric solids.

TEXT

Larson, Nancy. *Saxon Math 2, Second Edition*. Saxon Publishing.

History

History in second grade centers around the founding of our country with emphasis on our state, North Carolina. Students discuss the American Revolution (Boston Tea Party, Paul Revere, George Washington, July 4, 1776), and westward expansion (Trail of Tears, Pony Express, Railroads, and Wild West). They learn about North Carolina state symbols and geography, about Native American tribes who lived here, what life was like for the colonists, and about the lighthouses along the North Carolina coast.

Students learn about the richness of American history by reading selected literature as a class and independently. Learning is enhanced by cooking and sampling food, participating in hands-on projects and games, memorizing poetry; participating in writing projects, and taking part in three class celebrations: Green Corn Festival, Colonial Trade Day, and Pioneer Festival.

SELECTED TEXTS

Coleman, Brooke. *Roanoke: The Lost Colony*. NY: PowerKids Press, 2000.
D'Aulaire, Ingri and Edgar Parin D'Aulaire. *Pocahontas*. NY: Doubleday, 1946.
Gibbons, Gail. *Beacons of Light: Lighthouses*. NY: Morrow Junior Books.
Bantam Doubleday, 1996.
Levine, Ellen. *If You Travelled West in a Covered Wagon*. Scholastic, 1986.
Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth., Ted Rand, illstr. *Paul Revere's Ride*. NY: Dutton Children's Books.
Penner, Lucille Recht. *The Liberty Tree: The Beginning of the American Revolution*. Landmark Books, 1998.
Sateren, Shelley. *North Carolina Facts and Symbols*. Hilltop Books, 2000.

Science

The primary goal of science in the second grade is to foster an awe and wonder of God's creation. This goal is accomplished as the children observe a variety of life sciences and physical sciences in action. Students learn about the following: animal tracking, magnets, the three states of matter, the properties of air and flight, life cycles of a frog, butterfly, chicken, insects, and bats.

SELECTED TEXTS

Bats Incredible! AIMS Education Foundation, 1993.

Magnets, AIMS Education Publication, 1994.

Caldwell, Jane. *4-H Embryology Manuals*. NC Cooperative Extension Service, 1997.

Goor, Ron and Nancy Goor. *Insect Metamorphosis: From Egg to Adult*. NY: Atheneum, 1990.

Music

The overarching goal is to impart a love of music and to equip students for worship through familiarity and understanding of great music and through skills development. A music specialist provides 45 minutes twice a week of a carefully prepared program of music education. This skills-based program concentrates on singing, playing instruments, moving, and dancing. The daily activities are balanced for consistent training in all four of these areas:

1. Performance of a steady beat and simple rhythm patterns
2. Aural discrimination and vocal pitch matching
3. Development of coordination through movement and dance
4. Learning a large and varied repertoire of songs, especially ones correlated with the second grade regular curriculum unit studies of history, science, literature, and art studies.

A major emphasis is placed on memorizing songs (e.g., hymn of the month) to get the texts and melodies into the hearts and minds of the students. Students become accustomed to steady beat and rhythm patterns, correlating rhythms and music notation. Students learn all the names of the treble staff notes in preparation for recorder instruction in third grade. In addition, students develop a habit of active listening and become familiar with some standard classical music pieces.

TEXT

Adair, Audrey, Audrey J. Adair-Hauser, and Leah Solsrud, Photogr. *Ready-to-Use Music Activities Kit*. Parker Publishing Company, Inc.

Physical Education

The ultimate goal of a first through eighth grade physical education program is for students to have the tools necessary to be active for a lifetime. This begins in elementary school with teaching basic skills of throwing, catching, kicking, tumbling, and the concept of team play.

Second grade students continue the development of skills necessary for active individual and team play. In addition to working on the above basic skills students learn passing and dribbling through basketball and scooter soccer, serving and catching for sit-down volleyball, and the offensive and defensive setup for a variety of games. Cooperative play is fostered through games such as Capture the Flag.

TEXT

Rink, Judith E. *Teaching Physical Education for Learning*. McGraw-Hill Humanities.

Spanish

The second grade program focuses on learning to speak Spanish with accurate pronunciation and a widened vocabulary base. Spanish communication skills are encouraged through daily question-and-answer sessions, storytelling, independent written and artistic work, and games. Spanish-speaking countries, cultures, and traditions are discussed. The students begin to speak Spanish with confidence through emphasis on basic conversation skills and memorization with minimal emphasis on reading and writing.

Art

The grade two art program builds on the level of competency in manual dexterity that was achieved in grade one. This allows for the introduction of a wider variety of combinations of materials and techniques (e.g., oil pastels with tempera paint, 3D construction colored with paint, weaving, wax and dyes). The students grow more sophisticated in depicting movement and action, relationships, and emotions in their work. Class discussion about art becomes more globally based, and the use of art vocabulary becomes more fluent.

Second grade students develop a sense of history and empathy for other cultures. Through collaboration with second grade teachers, students complete colonial arts and crafts projects, focus on portraiture, still-life, and landscape paintings.

SELECTED TEXTS

A variety of children's picture books that relate to current topics and that provide a variety of techniques in the illustrations.

Crummel, Susan Stevens. *Cook-a-Doodle Doo*. Harcourt.

Ehlert, Lois. *Waiting for Wings*. Harcourt.

Charlotte Mason Studies

Charlotte Mason (1842-1923) was an English educator who over the course of a long career established a teachers' college and several schools and authored a six-volume work on her new philosophy of education for home and school. She advocated a rich, high-quality, interesting curriculum for all children, not merely to "educate" them, but also to guide them in the development of character and cultivate in them a lifelong love of learning. At Trinity School we seek to implement many of Mason's insights and ideas.

Picture Studies

The second grade picture studies include works from the following artists: Gainsborough, Cassat, and Degas. Pictures are observed, studied and reproduced in sketch form in order to learn the details, mood, and potential message of the work.

Nature Studies

The second grade studies continue to emphasize and refine the Charlotte Mason tools of inquiry, observation, and painting through exploration of the natural world. Nature studies are often completed within the context of science and history unit studies that are part of the regular curriculum. The students document observational details in picture format using dry-brush watercolor painting. The students study, in particular, the loblolly pine branch and poinsettia leaf in the fall of the year and the tadpole and scotch bonnet shell in the spring.

Narration

Oral narrations are incorporated into many of the subject areas of the second grade curriculum. One careful reading by the teacher is followed by a recounting of the details of the story. Similarly, descriptions of the details of a picture or nature object are told following a short, but focused viewing of the object or art. In this way, as Mason's approach outlines, students' minds are trained not only to attend the details but also to appreciate the art and the form of that which is under study.

Music Studies

The composers chosen for music studies in second grade are the following: Beethoven, Prokofiev, and J.P. Sousa. The classroom teacher gives a brief biographical sketch of each composer. The students listen to a portion, or an entire selection, and are given a chance to share their observations afterward. They are to tell what they heard and how the music made them feel. Following the attentive listening activity, students are given additional exposure to the recording when it is played during appropriate times, such as during nature study drawing sessions, quiet snack or lunch, or art/craft projects.

Throughout the school year, the students repeatedly hear several works by each of the three composers assigned to second grade. One of the composers is an American composer. The other two composers differ greatly in style so that the students can easily differentiate between their respective works.

Beethoven (1770-1827) *Symphony No. 5; String Quartets; Piano Sonatas; Fur Elise*

Prokofiev (1891-1953) *Classical Symphony; Peter and the Wolf (Townley & Marchl)*

Sousa (1854-1932) *The Stars and Stripes Forever; other marches*