



The New Academy Curriculum Guide

Second Grade

Below is an overview of the textbooks and materials we have chosen for the upcoming school year for grade two. At The New Academy, we are committed to consistently reviewing and updating our curriculum with each passing academic year. As our school develops, we will continuously explore new products, ideas and teaching strategies that will engage our students and inspire a deeply rooted desire to learn!

MATH

Saxon Math Home School Edition

A teaching method for incremental learning of mathematics, Saxon involves teaching a new mathematical concept every day and constantly reviewing old concepts. A Saxon lesson typically splits the day's work evenly between practicing the new material and reviewing old material. Its primary strength is in a steady review of all previous material, which is especially important to students who struggle with retaining the math they previously learned. The home school edition is slightly more in depth with strategies for one on one instruction of new concepts.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Easy Grammar Daily Grams

Easy Grammar texts use the prepositional approach combined with effective strategies designed for daily review of grammar concepts. This consistent curriculum aids students to understand grammar, a tool for speaking and writing properly. Second graders complete daily exercises as to review grammar concepts and prepare them for more complex grammar rules they will study in upper elementary curriculum.

Harcourt Spelling/Phonics

Harcourt Brace Spelling develops communication skills with research-based instructional techniques, phonetic decoding, writing development, integrated language arts, and special student reference features.

New Academy Writing Program

Our curriculum coordinator has developed a writing program specifically for our home school environment. Students will have fun and humorous writing themes each month

that cover all genres of elementary writing standards. Starting with an introduction to proper sentence and paragraph structure, the styles covered include descriptive, informative, how-to/instructional, persuasive, biography, autobiography, poetry, story writing and ending their second grade year with a 5-paragraph essay.

LITERATURE

Sadlier-Oxford Vocabulary

This well-known vocabulary curriculum allows students to complete systematic and explicit vocabulary instruction. Second grade students begin in Level PURPLE vocabulary, which is on or above appropriate grade level words and expressions. Our curriculum coordinator has developed several unique games and methods of study for each new unit. Children are challenged to learn all aspects of word usage – synonyms, antonyms, definitions and sentence use – by competing in weekly Vocabulary Jeopardy games, vocabulary bingo, vocabulary charades and Pictionary.

Newbery Book Club

Second grade students' reading assignments will be based on a monthly book club membership. Each month, children will experience classic and modern works from the American Library Association's list of Newbery Medal Winners. Students will read through their selections in class and at home. Activities, discussions, reports and comprehension quizzes will accompany each book. Through monthly reading achievements, children will become familiar with the elements and themes of distinguished children's literature. Regular library visits will be made to obtain new books and become familiar with the library system.

Read & Write Around the World/Travel Journals

Also developed specifically for our school, students will take a fictional trip (complete with passport!) to various landmarks around the U.S.A. and around the world! Students travel virtually to famous landmarks by way of our interactive SmartBoard screens. This curriculum promotes the reading-writing connection. Students will study interesting facts when they arrive at their destination. They will also record their account of the trip in their journals, write about climate, terrain, the characters and settings throughout history and subcultures in the places they read about.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Harcourt Social Studies

Harcourt Social Studies takes students on a journey through time and place. It's packed with reading support tools, such as charts, graphs, and timelines that help students better grasp the concepts. Books are engaging, colorful and packed with appealing facts and pictures that capture students' attention and interest.

SCIENCE

Harcourt Science

Harcourt Science textbooks create a world of science discovery. With an activity and experiment at the beginning of each lesson, the books inspire interest and promote curiosity. The program acknowledges scientific discoveries from all over the world, making the curriculum multicultural. The material presented focuses on reaching students with various learning styles. The books have tons of pictures that are helpful for students in the lower primary grades that might have difficulty reading and following directions.

OTHER RESOURCES

Zaner-Bloser Handwriting/Mavis Beacon Typing

Our lower elementary students will work through regular handwriting practice that teaches proper handwriting techniques and promotes early fine motor skill development. At the end of second grade, they will also have the opportunity to begin learning the basics of proper typing technique.

Technology Resources

Students will have daily access to the newest instructional technology. This will include Smartboard programs and lessons, personal net books, laptops , iMacs and iPads. With a computer for every student, upper elementary students will be completing much of their assignments online, as the New Academy moves toward a green and paperless classroom!

Guest Speakers

To connect real life application to many of the concepts studied within school, the elementary school will be welcoming one guest speaker each month to speak with the Students at The New Academy!

Field Trips

To further encourage and inspire learning, New Academy students will participate in many field trips to take students outside the classroom where they will experience science, social studies, literature, and fine arts firsthand.

Fun Cards

The Fun Card is an original classroom management and character education system developed by our curriculum coordinator. Each student at The New Academy will carry a 'Fun Card' with them through out the week, which highlights various behavior standards (i.e. respect teachers and friends, use your manners, play fair, etc). Students earn points for appropriate behavior through out the week and are given the opportunity to earn a 'Fun Friday' period at the end of the week.

