



What Your Child Will Learn in Second Grade

Greetings Second Grade Parents!

In Harford County Public Schools (HCPS), we are committed to ensuring that every child graduates having received an outstanding education. We know that you as parents are integral to this process and want you to know the role that the Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards (MCCRS) serve in the implementation of our curriculum.

How do the MCCRS relate to the Common Core State Standards?

In school year 2013-2014, Maryland implemented the MCCRS in all schools across the state. Maryland's new standards are based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), a set of consistent, high-quality academic goals in English language arts and mathematics, adopted by Maryland and more than 40 other states. The MCCRS define the knowledge and skills all students should master by the end of each grade level in order to graduate from high school fully prepared to enter college and the workforce.

What is the connection between the MCCRS and the HCPS curriculum?

The MCCRS guide HCPS instructional leaders to develop and refine curriculum so that teachers consistently create lessons that give our students the most essential knowledge and skills they need to progress academically.

What will lessons look like in the classroom?

Teachers are encouraged to create engaging and interactive lessons, integrating technology when appropriate. Our teachers provide the best environment for learning so that our children grow as learners but also gain the content and skills necessary to become productive members of our workforce and society.

How do the MCCRS affect all content areas?

The MCCRS clearly define benchmarks for learning in reading, writing, and mathematics. The literacy expectations for English language arts are clearly outlined, but just as importantly, so are the expectations for literacy in all content areas. For students to be college and career ready, they must be proficient in reading and writing complex informational and technical texts. This means that instruction in EVERY classroom focuses on both the critical content as well as the reading and writing skills necessary to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of that discipline.

How can you support your child at home?

As you review this brochure, think about ways you can support your child's learning at home. We need your help as we implement our curriculum and hold students to the highest standards of academic performance. Through a strong partnership with you, we will ensure that your child is fully prepared for success in school, work, and life.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Learn

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading

- Decode regularly spelled two-syllable words with long vowels.
- Ask and answer questions about key details in text.
- Retell stories and determine the message or lesson.
- Describe how words and phrases supply rhythm and meaning in a story, poem, or song.
- Compare and contrast two or more versions of the same story by different authors or from different cultures.
- Describe the connection between a series of events, ideas, or concepts in a text.

Writing

- Write opinion pieces that introduce the topic, state an opinion, supply reasons, and provide a conclusion.
- Write informative texts that introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement.
- Write narratives that recount a well-elaborated event, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use transition words, and provide closure.

Speaking/Listening

- Recount or describe key ideas or details from text read aloud, or information presented orally, or through other media.
- Ask and answer questions about what a speaker says in order to clarify something that is not understood, gather information, or deepen understanding of a topic or issue.

Language

- Use nouns, pronouns, verbs, adverbs, and adjectives effectively in writing.
- Produce simple and compound sentences.

MATHEMATICS

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

- Add and subtract within 100 to solve one- and two-step word problems.
- Fluently add and subtract within 20 using mental strategies. Determine odd or even numbers, and write an equation to express an even number.

Number and Operations in Base Ten

- Understand that the three digits in a three-digit number represent hundreds, tens, and ones.
- Count within 1000; skip-count by 5s, 10s, and 100s.
- Read and write numbers to 1000 with numerals, number names, and expanded form.
- Add up to four two-digit numbers.

Measurement and Data

- Estimate using inches, feet, centimeters, or meters.
- Tell and write time to the nearest five minutes.
- Solve word problems involving dollar bills, quarters, dimes, nickels, and pennies.
- Gather measurement data and show it on a line plot, picture graph, or bar graph.

Geometry

- Recognize and draw shapes with specified attributes such as number of sides, angles, or faces.
- Partition circles and rectangles into two, three, or four equal shares.

Mathematical Practices

- Make sense of and persevere in solving problems.
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- Model with mathematics, use appropriate tools strategically, and attend to precision.
- Look for and make use of structure as well as express regularity in repeated reasoning.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Learn

SCIENCE

Construct Knowledge

- Describe and compare properties of a variety of Earth materials.
- Observe and describe changes over time in the properties, location, and motion of celestial objects.
- Recognize and describe that the surface of Earth is more than half covered with water and be able to describe observable changes in the water on the surface of the Earth.
- Explain that there are identifiable stages in the life cycles (growth, reproduction, and death) of plants and animals.
- Observe and describe examples of variation (differences) among individuals of one kind within a population.
- Recognize and describe that the activities of individuals or groups of individuals can affect the environment.

Apply Evidence and Reasoning

- Compare the observable properties of a variety of objects and the materials they are made of using evidence from investigations.
- Cite evidence from investigations that most things are made of parts.
- Provide evidence from investigations to identify processes that can be used to change physical properties of materials.

Understand and Use Technology

- Raise questions about the world around them and be willing to seek answers to some of them by making careful observations and trying things out using available materials and technology.
- Examine a variety of physical models and describe what they teach about the real things they are meant to resemble.

SOCIAL STUDIES

History

- Examine differences between past and present time.
- Describe people, places, and artifacts of today and long ago.

Geography

- Use geographic tools to locate and describe places on Earth.
- Classify places and regions in an environment using geographic characteristics.
- Explain how transportation and communication link places by the movement of people, goods, and ideas.
- Explain how people modify, protect, and adapt to their environment.

Economics

- Explain why people have to make economic choices about goods and services.
- Explain the production process.
- Examine how technology affects the way people live, work, and play.
- Describe different types of markets.
- Describe how consumers acquire goods and services.

Political Science

- Explain how rules and laws are made and necessary to maintain order and protect citizens.
- Explain how democratic skills and attitudes are associated with being a responsible citizen.
- Explain how contributions and events are important to the American political system.
- Describe the rights and responsibilities of being a participating member of the school and the community.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Learn

UNIFIED ARTS

Art

- Use established criteria, including the art elements and principles of design taught in Grade 2, to compare and critique artworks.
- Compare a variety of themes in artwork.
- Create artwork that explores the art elements and principles of design taught in Grade 2 to communicate personal meaning in a composition.

Media

- Use text features, content, and story element vocabulary to explore and discuss a variety of literature.
- Use knowledge of arrangement, spine labels, and signage to locate resources in the various sections of the library media center.
- Gather, organize, record, interpret, and share information from print and online sources in a variety of ways using his/her own words and identify where the information is found.

Music

- Respond to sounds through listening, performing, reading symbols, and movements.
- Explore the relationship of music to dance, theater, the visual arts, and other disciplines.
- Participate in activities representing various cultures, holidays, and historical events.
- Create music through experimentation, improvisation, and composition.
- Evaluate musical compositions using established criteria.

Physical Education

- Catch an object thrown overhand.
- Identify the health-related fitness components
- Dribble with control using dominant and non-dominant hand.
- Combine three locomotor skills in a sequence.
- Describe and follow safety rules.

A Message from the Superintendent:

This year is one of enthusiasm and joy, as your child continues to grow and learn. During this year, essential curricular skills are taught in order to build the foundation for application and analysis. Continue to make time to read with your child and go to the library to get a variety of books, both fiction and nonfiction, that match your child's interests. Help your child practice math facts and play games that require the use of math concepts. Ask your child questions about his/her homework and provide a place and time at home for quiet learning. Communicate with the teacher so that you know what to do at home to further support your child.

Barbara Canavan



Inspire • Prepare • Achieve

The Harford County Public School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, physical or mental disability, age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs. For more information, contact the Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment of the Harford County Public School System at 102 South Hickory Avenue, Bel Air, MD 21014 or call 410-838-7300.

www.hcps.org