

## Second Grade Curriculum

### **BIBLE**

Our Bible series is *Voyages* by *Concordia Publishing*. Bible stories are taught weekly and memory verses memorized weekly. Chapel is every Wednesday at 8:40 a.m. Please join us if you can.

### **MATH**

*Scott Foresman California Math* teaches the essential content covered in the “California Mathematics Academic Content Standards”. Operations, thinking skills, problem solving, estimation, data, statistics, geometry, and probability are emphasized appropriately at all grade levels. Additionally, through paper and pencil exercises and hands-on activities, the children will begin to visualize numerical concepts. We will have opportunities to use hand-held calculators, and will spend time working on time and money concepts. We use the Math Drill text for nightly math facts practice.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

The text used in social studies is *Houghton Mifflin, Neighborhoods series*.

### **LANGUAGE ARTS**

We will be using the *Houghton Mifflin* series this year. It is an integrated, phonic based approach to reading, organized in thematic cluster, which includes spelling and language arts. *Adventure* and *Delights* are the titles of our basal readers. We will teach the conventions of written English. More importantly, however, we will be concentrating on the teaching of writing across the curriculum. Our aim will be fluency first, followed by form and correctness. In addition we will teach listening and speaking skills. In spelling, each unit groups works according to a specific emphasis (i.e. words with short ‘I’). We will also practice high frequency words. We use the Victory Drill book which allows each student to progress at his or her own rate.

### **HANDWRITING**

Second grade continues to work on manuscript handwriting. Cursive is introduced and practiced in second grade. The textbook *A Reason for Handwriting* is used.

### **SPANISH/ART/MUSIC**

Spanish is taught twice per week using a DVD program developed by Northern Arizona University. Art is taught one day per week by the classroom teacher. Music is taught in the classroom by Mrs. Midthun one day per week.

### **ACCELERATED READER**

Accelerated Reader is a motivational practice reading program. Qualified books are selected and read by the students. The students then take a comprehensive test on the computer which provides immediate feedback.

### **HOMEWORK**

There are five basic elements to regular second grade homework.

1. Victory Drill and Math Drill should be practiced nightly.
2. Basic math facts should be practiced nightly. Timed tests are given weekly.
3. Children should read or be read to each evening.
4. Children will complete a weekly homework packet.
5. Occasionally special projects may need some work at home.

## Second Grade Curriculum, Continued

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Each Friday, "GO HOME" notes and an envelope of schoolwork will be sent home. There is a form to sign and return.

### **DISCIPLINE**

In the primary grades, we use a system of "reminder" slips of different colors to help the children monitor their behavior. There are also slips for positive behavior. Parents will receive a note home when their child receives four or more slips in a day.

## Second Grade Parent Letter

Dear Second Grade Parents,

I am very excited about the priceless opportunity God has placed before me--that of teaching and loving your precious children. Please know that I take this responsibility very seriously, and I am very conscious of the great trust you as parents are placing in me.

My name is Traci Wacker. I earned my Bachelor of Arts degree in English from California State University Sacramento in May of 1989. I worked as a teacher's aide at St. Peter's for three years, two of which were spent in second grade. This is my eleventh year as St. Peter's second grade teacher. My husband Matt and I celebrated our nineteenth wedding anniversary in September. We have two children who attended St. Peter's from preschool through eighth grade. Our son Ryan is a freshman at Cosumnes River College, and our daughter Lauren is a sophomore at Pleasant Grove High School. We have been members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church for nine years, and before that we were longtime members of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Sacramento.

God blesses each of us with special gifts with which we can glorify and serve Him. Over the last several years, God has revealed to me that teaching is the avenue by which I may serve Him, first through teaching my own children about this world God has made and their place in it, next, through teaching Sunday School and English as a second language in my church, and finally, through teaching his precious children here at St. Peter's. As St. Peter's second grade teacher, I feel I am taking the next important step in my walk as a servant of God. I ask for your continued prayers in the coming year, as we strive to be examples of Christ's love to your children.

In the course of this school year, we will be learning many new and exciting things. Second grade is a great time of change and growth--we'll definitely be doing some brain stretching exercises! It is also a time of accomplishment--both you and your children will be amazed at the things they will be able to do by the end of the year!

Thank you for your interest in St. Peter's Lutheran School.

In Christ,

*Traci L. Wacker*