



# A Parent's Guide To the Los Altos School District **GRADE 2** Course of Study

August 2010

Second grade instructional programs in Los Altos schools are committed to helping each child meet the academic and intellectual competencies expected at this grade level and become active, engaged learners in a classroom setting. The following summary of the instructional program provides an overview of the second grade year. The second grade program builds on skills and knowledge children have learned in preceding years. It encourages critical thinking, creativity, and respect for self and others. Expectations are modified or expanded to meet a child's needs and abilities.

Curriculum standards are what all grade-level students are expected to know and be able to do by the end of a school year. Key concepts and standards of second grade education are highlighted below. If you would like a complete description of second grade standards, they can be downloaded from the [California Department of Education](#) website.

If you have questions about curriculum, please contact your child's teacher.



## **MATHEMATICS**

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Adopted Programs

Scott Foresman enVision

### ***Number Sense***

Counts, reads and writes whole numbers to 1,000 & identifies place value for each digit  
Understands & uses the inverse relationship for addition & subtraction  
Finds the sum or difference of two whole numbers up to three digits long  
Use repeated addition, arrays, & counting by multiples to do multiplication  
Recognizes, names and compares fractions from  $\frac{1}{12}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$   
Recognize fractions of a whole and parts of a group  
Solves problems with coins and bills  
Knows and uses the decimal notation and money symbols

### ***Algebra and Functions***

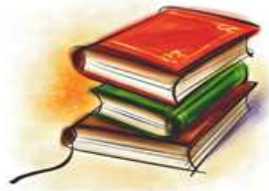
Uses the commutative and associative rules to help solve problems  
Relate problem situations to number sentences involving addition & subtraction

### ***Measurement & Geometry***

Measures the length of an object with nonstandard units  
Tells time to the nearest quarter hour & know relationships of time  
Describes and classifies plane and solid shapes

### ***Statistics, Data & Probability***

Represent the same data set in more than one way (e.g., bar graphs & charts with tallies)  
Ask & answer simple questions related to data representations  
Solve problems involving simple number patterns



## **READING/ LANGUAGE ARTS**-----

Adopted Programs	Houghton Mifflin Medallions Edition, Reading
<b>Reading</b>	
<b>Decoding:</b>	Recognizes and uses patterns to decode words Decodes multi-syllable words
<b>Word Recognition:</b>	Identifies and uses regular and irregular plurals Reads aloud accurately with appropriate intonation & expression
<b>Vocabulary:</b>	Understands antonyms, synonyms and homonyms Knows the meaning of prefixes and suffixes
<b>Structural Features:</b>	Uses titles, tables of content and chapter headings
<b>Comprehension:</b>	Reads with comprehension Uses strategies to comprehend & analyze plots, setting & character
<b>Analysis:</b>	Recognizes and restates facts, details, and relationships Identifies the use of rhythm, rhyme, and alliteration in poetry
<b>Writing</b>	
<b>Organization:</b>	Groups related ideas and maintains focus Writes a short paragraph
<b>Research:</b>	Understands the purpose of various reference materials
<b>Application:</b>	Records real experiences Writes a complete friendly letter using format accurately
<b>Penmanship:</b>	Creates documents with neat & legible handwriting consistently
<b>Sentence Structure:</b>	Distinguishes between incomplete and complete sentences
<b>Grammar:</b>	Identifies and uses various parts of speech correctly
<b>Punctuation:</b>	Uses periods, commas, and quotations marks correctly
<b>Capitalization:</b>	Capitalizes appropriate words
<b>Spelling:</b>	Spells frequently used and irregular words correctly
<b>Listening and Speaking</b>	
<b>Comprehension:</b>	Listens attentively and responds appropriately Asks clarifying questions Gives and follows three and four step oral directions
<b>Organization &amp; Delivery:</b>	Speaks clearly and at an appropriate pace
<b>Applications:</b>	Retells stories and experiences in a logical sequence Reports on a topic with supportive facts and details

## SCIENCE-----

Adopted Programs FOSS, [Insects](#) (Life), [Balance and Motion](#) (Physical),  
[Pebbles, Sand, and Silt](#) (Earth)

### **Scientific Process Skills**

Compares and sorts common objects  
Follow verbal instructions for a scientific investigation  
Records steps, events and observations

### **Life, Physical or Earth Sciences**

#### **Matter & Motion:**

Knows the simple concepts of sound  
Understands concepts of gravity, magnetism and simple

machines

#### **Life Cycles:**

Knows matter has observable properties and changes  
Understands plants and animals have predictable life cycles

#### **Geology:**

Compares the physical properties of rocks  
Understands how rocks and soil are made



## SOCIAL STUDIES-----

Adopted Programs Scott Foresman, [Then and Now](#)

#### **Geography:**

Uses basic map reading skills correctly

#### **Community:**

Understands and discusses family heritage

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION-----

Children receive daily physical education, concentrating on development of eye-hand coordination, fine and gross motor skills, and ability to cooperate/participate in organized games. A P.E. specialist works with the children every week, and all children also participate in the SPARK program.

## FINE and PERFORMING ARTS-----

All primary students receive instruction in art and music on a regular basis. The District provides trained volunteers through an Art Docent program. Many schools contract with CSMA or Starting Arts for additional programs.