

GRADE 2

כּתה ב'

GENERAL STUDIES CURRICULAR OVERVIEW

Second grade is a time of social, emotional, and cognitive growth. As children gain confidence in their abilities, they develop a greater sense of independence. They are more willing to take risks. Their peer relationships become increasingly important. Circles of friends broaden. Second graders begin to solve problems without adult intervention and assume greater responsibility for their actions. As expectations increase, second graders realize the need for structure and self-discipline. Better organizational habits develop. They are also more observant and "tuned in" to the world around them. Their ability to make connections and to relate one concept or idea to another gradually evolves.

In second grade, an effort is made to integrate curricular themes, providing opportunities for students to make connections and relate ideas. Our goal for the entire year is to have second graders view their learning as an engaging, fun experience.

PHILOSOPHICAL OVERVIEW:

Our goal in second grade is to teach the necessary skills in a supportive and success-oriented environment. To achieve this we use cooperative groups, games, learning centers, and stations. We emphasize writing, as well as reading, for pleasure. Open lines of communication are maintained between school and home in order to ensure that each child reaches his/her potential.

READING AND LANGUAGE:

In second grade, students write on a daily basis with the goal of becoming independent writers. As specified in second-grade writing standards, students begin by learning how to write a paragraph with a topic sentence and supporting details. Second graders gain awareness of the audience for which they are writing and write for different purposes. In reports and stories, second-grade students learn how to provide descriptive detail about characters and setting, and organize their work using a beginning, middle and ending. Students also focus on using sequence of events and writing from different viewpoints, i.e., first person (I) and third person (he, she, it, they).

WRITING STRATEGIES – THE WRITING PROCESS:

Second-grade writing standards focus on the writing process as the primary tool to help children become independent writers.

MATH

The Go Math series is the main component of our math curriculum. The goals of the math curriculum are to develop

students' abilities to reason and communicate mathematically by learning problem-solving skills for verbal, as well as symbolic problems. Computation and word problems are approached through hands-on, manipulative math activities.

At this level, students are grouped with flexibility to accommodate different learning styles and paces. Enrichment activities are available to encourage students to approach problems in a variety of ways. Students who achieve mastery at the second-grade level progress at their own pace to more advanced math material.

Whenever possible, we look for opportunities to increase relevance by integrating math with other subject areas.

SCIENCE

The Science curriculum aims to provide students with experiences that increase their awareness of the world around them. Through observation and experimentation, students become familiar with their physical world and learn to recognize the factors that can be manipulated to create change and progress.

The students in Grade 2 explore the world of science through the use of everyday materials, such as jars, cans, paperclips, etc. Hands-on projects and experiments are enhanced by weekly Science Lab thematic units and literature based stories.

Special Subjects:

In addition to our rigorous curriculum of standard courses, we offer our students the following special subjects:

Physical Education

Library

Technology

Science Lab

Music/TIV

Art

Expository Writing

JUDAIC STUDIES & HEBREW LANGUAGE CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

PHILOSOPHY

Our school develops each student's Jewish identity by teaching Jewish values and traditions, teaching the Hebrew language, and immersing the students in history, Torah, and Bible. Family and community involvement will work in tandem to instill a lifelong commitment to Tzedakah, tikkum olam, and to the perpetuation of a Jewish family life rich with rituals and traditions.

Students leave SSDS secure in the knowledge that they have achieved or surpassed their potential and are poised to advance successfully to the next level of education. Our students graduate with a bond to Judaism, Jews around the world, and Israel.

TEACHING APPROACHES

- The Jewish Studies curriculum is taught in large group, small group and individualized formats.

- The language of instruction is Hebrew. We aim to immerse our students in the Hebrew language to facilitate their study of the language and enhance the subjects taught.
- Emphasis is placed on giving students the opportunity to experience what they are learning through a variety of techniques: the use of arts & crafts, role-playing, projects, trips, learning games, music, stories and celebrations. Cooperative Learning techniques enable students to learn in teams and to learn from each other.
- Integration of the Jewish Studies curriculum and the General Studies curriculum occurs at many levels: joint projects, such as the Jewish Family Life unit described below, Jewish Values Vocabulary, used by both departments, holiday celebrations and units, such as the integration of the holiday of Sukkot with fall units and thematic language units, such as units on the environment and personal development.

TAL AM – HEBREW AND HERITAGE CURRICULUM GUIDELINE

TaL AM 2 is aligned to reinforce the development of learning, thinking and language skills. The brain-based design of the material and the congruence and alignment of its content and skills contribute to the acceleration of the learning process. TaL AM 2 is organized in three discipline-based tracks:

1. Shay - Shana Yehudit, The Jewish year
 - Tov Bakita Sheli Veshelanu, Vetov Babait - Daily life in the class, at home and outdoors.
 - Shabbat Sheli Veshelanu - 1 unit.
 - Holidays -The High Holidays, Hannukah, Tu Bishvat, Purim, from Pesach to Shavuot, Israel - from Independence Day to Yom Yerushalayim - 4 units
 - My Diary: 1 unit.
2. Parashat Hashavuah Ve Hatfilah Sheli Veshelanu - 4 units.
3. HaTorah Sheli Veshelanu - 9 units (there will be 4 units in the final edition).

THE JEWISH FAMILY LIFE UNIT IS “HAVDALLA.”:

In Kitah Bet our students learn about the beauty of Shabbat, its laws, customs and traditions. We learn that Shabbat is a special day, set aside to give us time to be ourselves, to free us from our daily worries and work. In school, we celebrate the coming of Shabbat on Fridays, Erev (Eve) Shabbat, to teach our students how to welcome this special day and to inspire them to make Shabbat a part of their family life. We believe that "learning by doing" is the best technique and that experiencing what we teach will create a memorable event that will give pleasure in the present and will remain as a family guide for the future. Therefore, we are extending an invitation to all of our Kitah Bet families to join us at a Family Havdallah Service