

# Grade 2 Curriculum Guide

## Mission and Philosophies of Swasey Central School

The mission of Swasey Central School is to prepare children for future learning and life experiences. Specifically, Swasey will provide children with knowledge, develop and support their capacity to learn, and strengthen the social and emotional skills they will need to succeed as middle school students and as members of their families, neighborhoods, and the world community.

To achieve its mission, Swasey Central School operates under the following philosophies:

### Academic Growth and Continuous Improvement

We believe in high academic standards for all children. We should continually improve and renew our academic program so that all children reach their fullest potential.

Teaching at Swasey should be tied to specific learning goals based on New Hampshire Curriculum Frameworks, SAU 16 curriculum guidelines, and other learning goals deemed relevant by the Swasey School community.

In addition to basic knowledge and academic skills, we should develop the skills (such as critical and analytical thinking) that empower children to pursue learning beyond the classroom. Teachers must understand each child's unique academic strengths and needs. The school should provide the resources and structure (such as small class size) to support that understanding.

Children learn best in a nurturing environment; a strength of Swasey Central School. We should maintain and strengthen this environment while challenging students to reach high standards. The school should provide learning materials and instructional strategies that are research based, current, and strongly tied to learning objectives. To meet learning objectives as children progress through Swasey School, the administrative and instructional teams should work together to build consistent strategies and programs across grades.

We believe in accountability through assessments of student performance that are efficient, relevant, and appropriate. The most powerful use of assessment is to improve curriculum and instruction so that all children reach high standards.

### Social and Emotional Growth

In the Swasey School learning community, each member is responsible for the success of others. Students, parents, teachers, and administrators should respect each other and themselves, live by the school's rules, work cooperatively, use self knowledge for change, challenge themselves, and appreciate the ideas and experiences of others.

### Community and Parent Involvement

With the goal of building strong partnerships, Swasey Central School's responsibilities to parents include inviting them to participate in decision-making; clearly explaining what is to be learned and how children are progressing; and assisting parents as they support their children's learning at home.

Parents' responsibilities to the school include making sure children come to school ready to learn and actively supporting children's learning in all parts of their lives. The school encourages parents to participate in other ways where possible, such as attending school events, participating in decision-making, and volunteering.

Swasey School has traditionally enjoyed the strong support of the community at large. We should continue to build that relationship by asking for community opinion, answering questions, and encouraging the community to learn about the school's mission and goals. We recognize that the school is part of a larger community with many diverse needs.

## Homework

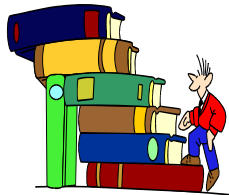
The purposes of homework at the second grade level are to practice skills learned in school and to develop independent and responsible homework habits. Homework should take, at a minimum, from fifteen (15) to twenty (20) minutes. Although it would be helpful for parents to establish a set time and provide an area with minimal distraction, students should be responsible for completing the work, putting it in their backpacks, and getting it back to school. Homework will be given at least two (2) nights per week. Ongoing review of spelling patterns and math facts is strongly encouraged as is nightly reading.

## Language Arts

The second grade will use the Four Blocks framework to provide daily instruction in guided reading, writing, self-selected reading and working with words.

### Reading

- To explore different genres, such as poetry, fairy tales, non-fiction, and fiction.
- To develop the ability to choose reading material at a readable level.
- To develop the comprehension skills needed to understand the concepts of beginning, middle, and end of a story, resolution of a conflict, character development, and description.
- To read for different purposes.



### Writing

- To use capitalization of the first word of a sentence, names and titles of people, months and days, and the word 'I'.
- To use ending punctuation.
- To write a friendly letter.
- To write descriptively about a picture or idea
- To begin to take notes, organize them by topic, and write a report.

## Word Analysis and Vocabulary

- To know the short and long vowel sounds and be familiar with their spelling patterns.
- To decode diphthongs (oi, oy, ou, ow).
- To decode blends and digraphs (st, bl, th, sh, etc.).
- To recognize, auditorily, the number of syllables in a word.
- To recognize and understand the meanings of common prefixes and suffixes.
- To recognize patterns.
- To develop content-specific vocabulary.

## Listening/Viewing/Speaking

- To demonstrate good listening at sharing time.
- To share items or information at sharing time.
- To listen to and answer questions about a story read aloud.
- To follow two- or three-part directions given orally.
- To read, to the class or an invited person, a story, report, or poem they have written.

## Spelling and Grammar

- To use spelling patterns to spell words while writing them in context.
- To develop a bank of sight spelling words.
- To, when appropriate, double a final consonant or drop a silent 'e' when adding a vowel ending.
- To write sentences that contain a subject and a predicate.

## Study Skills

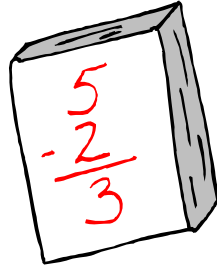
- To alphabetize to the third letter.
- To look up a word in a dictionary.
- To use a table of contents.
- To use an index.

## Mathematics

Second grade students use the Everyday Mathematics program. Topics covered include:

## Number Sense

- Master strategies of basic addition and subtraction.
- Know 100 basic addition and subtraction facts.
- Understand place value to the thousands.
- Complete addition and subtraction of double-digit numbers using different strategies.



## Geometry

- Recognize basic two- and three-dimensional figures and their attributes.
- Understand the term 'symmetry'.

## Patterns

- Identify, extend, and create complex patterns.

## Data, Probability, and Statistics

- Record, create, and interpret simple graphs.
- Use graphs to solve problems.

## Measurement

- Tell time to five (5) minute intervals.
- Measure objects to the nearest inch.
- Write the value of a group of coins.

## Science

The grade two science and health program is taught using hands-on materials to promote discovery and experimentation. It follows the SAU curriculum. The topics in second grade include:

- Animals
- Trees and ecology
- Geology
- Health and safety
- The skeleton and other major body systems
- Magnets
- Oceans and water

## Social Studies

The following topics are part of the second grade social studies curriculum:

- Community
- Holidays around the world



- American national holidays
  - Patriotic symbols
  - Maps
  - Character/Citizenship

## Technology

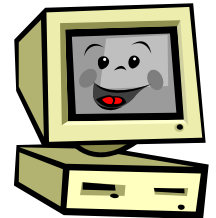
The use of technology as an educational resource should be an integral component of all curricula. We desire to use technology as an information acquisition, processing and productivity tool.

A two-tier approach is used to provide our students with opportunities to acquire and reinforce technology skills:

1. Regularly scheduled whole-group instruction in the computer resource center.
2. Individual skills practice, research, and writing on classroom computers.

The focus in grade two is on the following skills:

- Create, edit, and print a word processing document.
- Create, edit, and print a graphics document.
- With assistance, insert clip art and photos into a word processing document.
- With assistance, change the font type, size, and style in a word processing document.
- Create, edit, and publish a simple multimedia presentation as part of a group presentation.
- With assistance, access a website from a browser bookmark.
- Continue to practice and refine two-handed keyboarding.
- Receive an introduction to the home row keys.



## Physical Education

The physical education program is designed to meet the needs of all children. Wellness and the concept of lifelong fitness are

interwoven throughout the year. Students in grade two will:

- Explore a variety of loco-motor skills galloping, skipping, and more.
- Begin to understand general game procedures with lead up games with the emphasis on cooperation rather than competition.
- Explore manipulative skills using various pieces of equipment.
- Learn rhythmic movements and dance to reinforce spatial awareness.
- Begin focusing on good sportsmanship.

## Art

Second grade students will:

- Learn about the seven elements of art, focusing on line, color, shape and space.
- Be able to identify the secondary colors and mix them from the primary colors.
- Understand symmetry and how it relates to balance.
- Observe and discuss a variety of works of art, including their own.
- Be introduced to famous artists and arts and crafts of other cultures.
- Experiment with drawing, painting, collage, clay and printing.
- Learn to communicate and express thoughts and feelings through art.



## Music

Our music program is designed for all children with each contributing to his or her ability. Using the MacMillan text Music and You combined with an Orff-Schulwerk approach to teaching, children in all grades learn the elements of music through movement, speech, song, and playing instruments. Improvisation is encouraged to develop creative thinking. Integrating with core subjects and performance is also a part of the music experience. Skills that are addressed in grade two include:

- Continued practice in matching pitch using tone drills and echo songs.

- Singing a varied repertoire that further develops students' vocal range.
- Identifying some of the basic musical symbols through use of our 'big book'.
- Recognizing quarter, half, and eighth notes and quarter rests.
- Playing combinations of the above notations on rhythm band instruments or body percussion.
- Developing playing skills for a variety of barred instruments.
- Introduction to instruments of the orchestra.



## Library

Grade two students will receive instruction in library skills throughout the school year. Topics include:

- Media manners – proper behavior in the library.
- Library procedures – how to search for, select, and check out a book.
- The proper care of books.
- Parts of a book – the cover, spine, dust jacket, spine label, date due slip, title page, dedication page, table of contents, glossary, and index.
- Library terms – author, illustrator, illustrations, call number, publisher, copyright date, easy books, picture books, fiction, non-fiction, biography, autobiography, magazines, dictionary, thesaurus, encyclopedia, and almanac.
- Arrangement of easy books – finding them by a specific author.
- Introduction to location and arrangement of fiction, non-fiction, biography, and reference books.
- Introduction to the online catalog.
- Selection of books and evaluating books by their cover, illustrations,



subject and difficulty (the five finger test).

- Introduction to the online catalog - locating a book by title, author or subject.
- Literature skills - attentive listening, relating stories to one's own experiences, comparing or contrasting two books or stories with a similar theme, listening for details, interpreting illustrations, participation in storytelling, singing songs and listening to poetry.
- Recalling and retelling stories.
- Introduction to folk tales, fairy tales, and fables.
- Acting out stories in pantomime.
- Introduction to a variety of authors and illustrators.
- Introduction to various Medal books.