

Social Studies

The Grade 2 social studies program focuses on how the basic concepts of how people depend on one another contribute in the development of family, community, and nation. By following the processing of two foods from harvest to consumer, students learn about our climate, geography, and economy.

Through personal stories, students develop a sense of history and an understanding of what life was like for people long ago. Students begin to understand the rich diversity of our society through an exploration of the cultural differences of the geographical regions of our United States.

After students understand how we are different, they explore how American people come together and identify as a nation. The children learn how Americans share some common values, beliefs and ways of celebrating our history. Through the study of holidays, symbols and the responsibilities of public leaders, students learn what it means to be a good citizen.

By exploring the lives of a few extraordinary citizens and by identifying their own talents and interests, students understand how people can make a difference in their world. Through the use of technology and interdisciplinary activities, the Grade 2 social studies program is integrated into other content areas. The Grade 2 social studies program addresses the content standards identified in the Connecticut State Department of Education Framework for Social Studies.

Library Media

In Grade 2, students will continue to master skills learned in previous grades as well as focus on new objectives that help them to become lifelong readers and learners. Students will:

- learn strategies for choosing a book based on their age and interests.
- examine different genres to aide in their appreciation of literature.
- locate a table of contents, index and glossary of a book.
- identify the automated card catalog as a means of locating materials.
- create a research report in which they will use a graphic organizer and write a simple citation.
- use a computer to write a paragraph, and locate and insert a picture.
- save a file and print a copy of the project.

Art and Music

The Grade 2 program in art includes the areas of drawing, color theory, design elements, collage, painting terminology and techniques, printmaking, sculpture, textiles and art history. Experimentation with paint includes various painting and brush control techniques. Students will utilize color-mixing theory as they mix primary and secondary colors, tints and shades and identify warm and cool colors.

Printmaking techniques focus on making and utilizing stencils, repetition as an element of design, relief prints and the reversed image in printmaking. Sculpture techniques include relief sculpture and puppetry. Students weave with paper and yarn.

The Grade 2 music program includes studies of melody, harmony, form, tone color and rhythm. Students sing increasingly complex songs with an emphasis on singing the correct melody, invent melodies on Orff instruments and play melodies in sequence. They experiment with harmony, identify beats and recognize and write four beat patterns.

Physical Education and Health

Physical education focuses on movement exploration, tumbling, rhythm and dance, ball handling, rope skipping and simple games. Students are exposed to activities that contribute to the development of basic sport or game skills. Cooperative games allow students to develop both skills and sportsmanship.

The health program introduces basic concepts of health practices including eating properly, preventing diseases and learning strategies for dealing with aggression and hostility. They are able to describe what is meant by a "drug," and know that medicines should be taken only with adult supervision. Students learn to identify people who are best able to help them in emergency situations.

Assessment

An essential part of learning is the ability to apply what has been learned to new situations. In assessments of their progress, students practice and perform tasks that mirror "real world" activities. They may write letters, create projects, work with others in problem-solving activities and use specific criteria to assess their own work.

Teacher expectations for the tasks are illustrated through the use of skill lists and samples of excellent work.

Trumbull Public Schools Trumbull, Connecticut



Curriculum Department Grade 2 Curriculum Overview

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Program Leaders

**Terry Buckingham
Language Arts**

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Mathematics**

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Trumbull Public Schools Goals

The Trumbull Public Schools are committed to the goal of providing each student with the learning experiences, understandings and skills needed to promote a successful learning experience. The educational program focuses on both intellectual and social growth, encouraging students to make positive contributions to our democratic society, while developing the abilities needed to adjust to a rapidly changing world.

The curriculum in Grade 2 builds upon the skills and curriculum content of the previous grades. The grade two student is faced with new challenges and with opportunities to develop both academically and socially.

The curriculum supports and encourages a balance of rich learning activities for each child and provides an excellent foundation for continued study. Technology supports the curriculum, as students increase their research and reporting skills using on-line and school based resources.

Language Arts

The program goals for our students in Language Arts are based upon the four standards from the Connecticut Language Arts Framework.

STANDARD 1: Reading and Responding

STANDARD 2: Exploring and Responding to Literature

STANDARD 3: Communicating with Others

STANDARD 4: English Language Conventions

To accomplish these goals, a balanced literacy program exists in Trumbull. It includes:

- Interactive Read Aloud
- Shared Reading
- Guided Reading
- Independent Reading
- Word Study
- Literature Study
- Guided Writing
- Independent Writing

Our assessments, given throughout the school year, are used in order to better understand the strengths and weaknesses of student learning. These assessments are instrumental in helping to drive instruction within the classroom.

Mathematics

Grade 2 students reason, represent their thinking and communicate mathematically as they strengthen computation and problem solving skills. Second grade students will experience a rigorous curriculum focusing on the four domains of mathematics listed below.

Algebraic Reasoning

- Describe and extend patterns.
- Analyze change in terms of quantity and quality using patterns.
- Represent real-life situations using number sentences.
- Represent quantities that have the same value with an equal sign.

Numerical and Proportional Reasoning

- Represent three digit numbers as groups of hundreds, tens and ones in the base ten place value system.
- Represent fractions by sharing portions of equal size as parts of a whole or parts of a set.
- Recognize that the denominator of a fraction tells how many equal parts an object or a set has been divided into, and the numerator indicates how many of the parts are being considered.
- Describe relationships between quantities using ratios.
- Develop fact families of basic facts using the inverse relationship of addition and subtraction.
- Explore the relationship of multiplication and division through a variety of methods.
- Identify and use equivalent representations of numbers to estimate and compute.

Geometry and Measurement

- Identify shapes as the same when there are changes in position.
- Recognize and use geometric relationships to solve problems.
- Estimate and measure the length of time to complete activities and tasks.
- Measure through direct comparison and through repetition of units.

Data, Probability and Statistics

- Construct graphs from data then make comparisons and draw conclusions.
- Determine patterns and make predictions from data displayed in tables and graphs.
- Analyze data gathered from experiments and identify the likelihood of future events.

Science

Science education provides all students across the Kindergarten through Grade 5 levels with opportunities to develop and practice skills in observation along with collecting, recording, and interpreting data. The students will learn to communicate results in journals through graphs, diagrams, drawings and/or writing. From Kindergarten to grade 5, students are engaged in activities that promote exploration. Exploration leads to investigation which allows students to develop questioning skills building upon a foundation for scientific thinking processes. Students are given the opportunity to learn science by doing science. Instructional learning is experienced through an inquiry approach using directed, guided, and independent inquiry strategies which will eventually allow students to design and perform their own experimentation. The **National Science Education Standards Addendum on Inquiry** (National Academy Press, 2000) recommends a “5 E” approach to learning. The “5 E’s” are Engage, Explore, Explain, Extend, and Evaluate.

Grade 2 students are engaged in science through the use of science modules that promote hands-on investigations with Solids and Liquids, Air and Weather, and Living Things. They learn that everything is made of matter and will describe and sort objects according to their physical properties. Air and weather is explored daily while they keep a weather calendar to measure temperature, rainfall, and wind speed. New to second grade this year is the Earth Science unit on soil and earthworms. Soil has different properties such as particle size, texture, the capacity to hold water and provides a habitat for many living things.

- What are the three fundamental states of matter?
- How do weather conditions affect our daily lives?
- What makes objects move the way they do?
- How do materials cycle through the Earth’s system?