



PAVVIRTUAL

CHARTER SCHOOL

Course Descriptions

Second Grade

2

Second Grade Course Descriptions

Language Arts

This course provides a comprehensive and interrelated sequence of lessons for students to continue building their proficiency in literature and comprehension, writing skills, vocabulary, spelling, and handwriting.

- **Literature and Comprehension:** A guided reading approach builds comprehension strategies and gradually transitions students to independent reading assignments. Leveled reading selections progressively expose students to new challenges, including greater length, more complex content, and new vocabulary. The emphasis is on classic literature from many cultures, poetry, and nonfiction articles. Students also make their own reading choices to help foster a lifelong love of reading.
- **Writing Skills:** Students learn about parts of speech, usage, capitalization, and punctuation, then apply this knowledge as they write sentences and paragraphs. Students are introduced to the process of writing, as they pre-write, draft, revise, and proofread their work before they share it with others. Written products include letters, poems, literature reviews, research reports, and presentations.
- **Vocabulary:** Students increase their vocabulary through word study, comprehension, and word analysis, then apply their knowledge in a variety of authentic contexts.
- **Spelling:** Students continue their exploration of spelling conventions with lessons in sound-symbol relationships and patterns.
- **Handwriting:** Handwriting Without Tears helps students develop printing skills and, if appropriate, begin cursive handwriting

Math

This research-based course focuses on computational fluency, conceptual understanding, and problem solving. The engaging course features new graphics, learning tools, and games; adaptive activities that help struggling students master concepts and skills before moving on; and more support for Learning Coaches to guide their students to success. This course focuses primarily on number concepts, place value, and addition and subtraction of numbers through 1,000. Special emphasis is given to problem solving, inverse operations, properties of operations, decomposition of numbers, and mental math. Students study money, time, and measurement; geometric figures; analyzing and displaying data with new representations; and determining the range and mode of data. Early concepts about multiplication, division, and fractions are introduced.

Science

Students perform experiments to develop skills of observation and analysis and learn how scientists understand our world. They demonstrate how pulleys lift heavy objects, make a temporary magnet and test its strength, and analyze the parts of a flower. Students will explore topics such as the metric system (liters and kilograms), force (motion and simple machines, physicist Isaac Newton), magnetism (magnetic poles and fields, how a compass works), sound (how sounds are made, inventor Alexander Graham Bell), the human body (cells, the digestive system), and geology (layers of the earth, kinds of rocks, and weathering).

History

History 2 continues a program that spans the elementary grades, exploring world geography and history from the Stone Age to the Space Age. This course focuses on the time from ancient Rome to the later Middle Ages. Supplementary lessons focus on concepts in economics and citizenship.

Art

Art 2 lessons include an introduction to the art and architecture of ancient Rome, medieval Europe, Islam, Mexico, Africa, China, and Japan. Students will examine elements of art and principles of design such as line, shape, pattern, and more; study and create self-portraits, landscapes, sculptures, and more; and create artworks similar to works they learn about, using many materials and techniques. For example, after studying Winslow Homer's *Snap the Whip*, students paint their own narrative landscape, and design stained glass windows inspired by the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

Spotlight on Music

Spotlight on Music promotes successful music learning as students explore and build foundational music skills. The program includes enriching musical experiences that help students understand music concepts. Students are exposed to a variety of interactive learning activities, such as focused listening, singing, creative movement, dancing, real and virtual instruments, authentic recordings, videos, music theory exercises, and playing the recorder (grades 3–8). Spotlight on Music provides opportunities for students to make meaningful connections with math, language arts, science, social studies, and other subjects.

