



A Quick Overview

Second grade is an amazing year for the students as they strive to become independent learners through the loving guidance provided by the teachers. Each child is encouraged to develop self-confidence and the knowledge that he/she has the ability and skills necessary to succeed in every area of study.

With the needs of every child in mind, daily curriculum is enhanced through an intentional focus towards developing the 4Cs: creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration. These competencies are nurtured and built upon in a carefully crafted continuum throughout each Park Maitland student's journey, ultimately preparing him or her to be a productive asset in a global society.

Evidences of the 4Cs at this level include assignments and tasks across our curriculum where the second grade student will do the following:

Build Creativity

- Apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes
- Begin to identify characteristics of quality ideas
- Evaluate original ideas
- Realize usefulness of original ideas, and begin to articulate this usefulness to others

Build Critical Thinking

- Identify more open-ended problems without simple solutions
- Demonstrate persistence and grit more independently
- Exhibit a willingness to try new things and embrace learning from mistakes as an opportunity for growth
- Learn and utilize the tools, technology, and materials needed for producing prototypes that make his/her thinking visible
- Articulate and reflect on the Design Thinking Process as it guides his/her learning





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Build Communication

Articulate thoughts and ideas accurately and effectively through oral, written, or multimedia communications
Use prior knowledge to construct new knowledge and communicate information
Determine the purpose for communicating as well as organize and present information to serve the purpose, context, and audience
Organize the sequence of ideas/events to move his/her audience smoothly through a form of communication from beginning to end

Build Collaboration

Encourage members of the group with specific feedback
Share and report progress to the teacher and class
Help to keep groups on task, working to meet goals and deadlines in the roles of both a leader and follower
Solve problems and work to resolve conflict within the group or with the project more independently

Course Descriptions:

Language Arts: Reading and E.S.W (English, Spelling, and Writing)

The second graders at Park Maitland expand their appreciation for literature as they learn to discuss and critique the material they are reading. This is an exciting year as the students move from learning to read to reading to learn. The students broaden their vocabulary and understanding of how a word's meaning relates to the material they are reading. They improve upon and continue to develop reading comprehension, fluency, and word skills. These goals are accomplished through various types of reading instruction, including guided reading, group and pair work, direct instruction, and one-on-one instruction.

With a close ear attuned to detect reading fluency, the reading teacher offers individual and group support. During daily practice students are nurtured to improve their pronunciation and inflection. There is also the ever-present knowledge that students broaden their vocabulary as they discuss the words used in their reading and add those words to their verbal data bank. For this reason, we continue to support the word attack skills taught in first grade and encourage the students to apply those skills to their reading and writing.





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E.S.W.

The second graders also develop their independence and confidence as writers. This is done as they are given purposeful assignments and the tools necessary to complete the writing process. This process is supported as the students build an understanding of grammar and the proper mechanics used by writers. These mechanics include proper spelling and handwriting which is supported in all the second grade classes. As these students go through the writing process, they are encouraged to expand the language and "voice" they use in their writing.

- The writers in second grade realize that writing well involves planning, drafting, revising, proofreading, and then publishing in some way.
- This process is taught and encouraged throughout the year.
- The phonics skills these students have learned, and are learning, in first and second grade are applied in their writing.
- The students in second grade use a solid understanding of English grammar to expand the language used in their written and verbal expressions.

Math

Park Maitland's second graders use the third grade level of the Saxon math program. We find that the spiral presentation offered by this curriculum allows each student to learn at his/her own pace. The teacher encourages mathematical thinking by incorporating a wide variety of stimulating, hands-on, math enrichment activities into the curriculum. Through these activities, an emphasis is placed on the development of problem solving strategies as well as relating math to real-life situations whenever possible. This approach increases critical thinking and ignites student innovation.

With core skills ranging from finding square roots of perfect squares, to solving spatial problems, to identifying faces, vertices, and edges of a geometric solid, students become well-versed in mathematical concepts. Our program is designed to provide each learner with a wide variety of challenging experiences so that the students will become not only familiar, but also comfortable with numbers.

As they journey through this numerical wonderland, the second graders learn that mathematics is more than just the ability to calculate numbers. It is a pathway to engineering future ideas.





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Science and Social Studies

Park Maitland integrates the science and social studies curriculum and presents it as a hands-on learning experience in a cooperative group setting. The students work collaboratively in small groups as they research the topic being studied, creating a booklet that includes their research and ideas. Many of the units of study are concluded with oral presentations that are given by each of the small groups. During this process, students benefit from the opportunity to work as a member of a small group, allowing each of them to build their leadership skills and to support their peers as they synergize to master the topic being studied.

The science component of this program is aimed towards capitalizing on the naturally inquisitive nature of second graders. It is our pleasure to utilize this tendency to teach scientific reasoning skills and create a love for science. Much of this is accomplished through student participation in Park Maitland's Science Expo. This captivating event is born as our students employ the scientific method to complete a variety of experiments and scientific studies. It comes to completion at the Orlando Science Center as students delight in the opportunity to share their experiments and research with the whole school community.

The social studies component of this program targets each student's thirst to learn about history and geography. In Park Maitland manner, we connect our curriculum to school events and experiences which reinforce learning. For instance, the unit on the state of Florida is celebrated with a field trip to Gatorland. Also, the year comes to a conclusion with many parents (who are experts in their fields) sharing the highlights of their careers with the students.

During the course of the year, the second grade students learn to adapt to a changing world as they build their knowledge of the world around them.





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Enrichment Classes

Park Maitland enhances the core curriculum for our second graders with a wide variety of enrichment programs taught by instructors who specialize in the area that they are teaching. These teachers pass on their passion for their area of expertise to our students. The enrichment classes our students enjoy are listed below:

Physical education: As the students are taught a wide variety of both individual and team physical education skills, they learn to show good sportsmanship and work collaboratively as a team. The second graders also love showing off PE skills at the annual Sports Fest in the spring.

Swimming: With an increased awareness of safe practices around water, each student is challenged according to his or her individual abilities to both improve stroke techniques and swimming endurance.

Recess: The students continue the tradition of receiving recess time each day to enjoy free play with their friends.

Drama: Our budding performers are encouraged to think creatively and express themselves as they enjoy showcasing their acting abilities. The students also have the opportunity to be a part of the audience at a local dramatic production.

Music: Each second grader is exposed to a wide variety of musical experiences, as he/she learns to develop a love for and an appreciation of music. As often anticipated, the students' talents are highlighted in a yearly dramatic/musical presentation.

Tinkering Lab: 21st century skills will guide curriculum driven projects as students discover how to explicitly apply the design thinking process to solve problems, meet needs, and provide structure, curation, and reflection to their learning.

Art: The goal of the Artylogy program is to inspire our artists to express themselves visually while they think, explore, and experiment with a variety of media. These novice artisans participate in the Young Masters program, the Winter Park Holiday Art Competition, the Wells Fargo Art Show, the Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival, and our own annual Art Faire.

Spanish: The students are exposed to the Spanish language and culture as they build their vocabulary through a variety of engaging hands-on activities. Additionally, they begin to use the Rosetta Stone program to support and expand their learning. This program is also accessible to students at home to further advance their knowledge of the Spanish language.

Media Center: The Park Maitland library is here to help every student develop a love of reading, become a skilled user of ideas and information, and to explore the world through print and electronic media. The students become familiar with the computers as they use Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, additional software, and internet sites to support the Park Maitland curriculum. We also use iPads as a teaching tool in many of our classes. These electronic tools allow the students to work with their peers as they research and explore ideas.

Cross Cultural Events

The "Across Generations" celebration: This special celebration has become one of the most loved traditions at Park Maitland. Each child chooses a special person in their grandparents' generation to research and honor through this project.

The "Polar Express Week:" Throughout the week the teachers provide creative, fun activities to support the curriculum based on the Polar Express theme. The week is highlighted by wearing PJs to school, "boarding the Polar Express" in reading class, and "taking the train to the North Pole."

