

Dear Parents/Guardians of Grade 2 students,

A new school year has begun! I hope grade two will be an excellent year for your child. I strive to make each day both a success and a challenge for the students. The following information describes the program for this year. These goals are based on the grade two Nova Scotia curriculum guidelines. Students will be involved in a variety of activities orally and written independently. The activities will range from independent seatwork, to hands on learning or may be activity based. Each subject is broken down below into the areas/units it contains.

Language Arts

The Language Arts program consists of three main areas.

1. Reading and Viewing: Examples include read aloud, independent reading, shared reading, independent reading, guided reading, reading logs, poetry, fiction and nonfiction, reading websites, reading responses, conferring and comprehension strategies.
2. Speaking and Listening: Examples include participation in discussions (as listeners and speakers), questioning, drawing conclusions, following directions, oral presentations, sharing circles, class meetings, recitations and drama.
3. Writing and Other Ways of Representing: Examples include creative and factual writing, letters, poems, personal responses, reports and journals. Students will concentrate on improving their spelling strategies, use of capitals/punctuation, sentence and paragraph structure, editing, brainstorming and organizing their writing, as well as illustrating. Word study involves mini-lessons, which will highlight high frequency and word wall words and phonics.

Math

Activities will generally be introduced with the use of manipulatives and opportunities for hands on learning. This will be followed by independent tasks such as math journals, reinforcement activities and assessment activities. There are five general curriculum outcomes that are covered in grade two. They are:

- Number
- Patterns & Relations
- Measurement
- Geometry
- Statistics & Probability

Each concept is broken down into specific curriculum outcomes. For example: number sense contains the specific outcome of addition with regrouping.

Integrated Science

The following topics will be covered in Grade Two: Air and Water in the Environment, Animals Growth and Changes, Motion Invisible Forces, Materials and Structures. We will focus on development of the skills and processes of science integrated with Language Arts and Math:

- Observing
- Classifying
- Communicating
- Predicting
- Formulating hypothesis
- Problem solving
- Experimenting
- Concluding

Integrated Social Studies

Grade two students will investigate the role of change in people's lives, including their own, and will examine the causes and effects of change on families, work, communities, and technology.

Integrated Health Education

In Grade Two, students will investigate the benefits of active and quiet leisure; empathy; ways to be safe at school and in the community

Visual Arts

We will be covering the following topics: Exploring the range of uses for different materials, bringing personal meaning to artwork, Developing an awareness and appreciation that art is a lifelong process.

Assessment and Evaluation in Grade Two

Assessment and evaluation is an ongoing, day-to-day process. Formative assessment will help drive the teaching in the classroom which in turn will allow students to reach the expected curriculum outcomes. The students will be active participants in the assessment process as clear expectations and goals will be presented at the beginning of each lesson/unit. Daily work, ongoing observations, work samples, conferences, running records, anecdotal notes, peer and self evaluation, SEL assessments, individual and group projects, active participation, presentations, tests/quizzes, conferences, completion of class work/homework, and rubrics will be utilized to assess student learning.

Teacher Expectations

Students are expected to participate in their learning by completing all schoolwork to the best of their ability. They are encouraged to work with their fellow classmates and teachers in a positive and constructive manner. Independence, good work habits and organizational skills will be emphasized throughout the year. Parent involvement and home support are very important for student success.

Communication

The Communication Folder is the daily link between home and school. I encourage students to take responsibility in making sure the folder makes it to and from school daily. Any important information and forms will be sent home in your child's Communication Folder. Please use this to send any notes to your child's teacher as well. These are checked daily. Formal parent/teacher meetings occur twice a year with other meetings scheduled as needed. I feel it is important to have an open line of communication with our students and their families. Acceptable avenues of communication would be contacting your child's classroom teacher at school (902-541-8230), a note in their communication folder, calling the school and arranging a meeting, or emailing me at szinck@gnspec.ca.

I hope the above information has been helpful and welcome any questions/comments you may have.