

Science / Health

For science, standards for each grade level are rotated each year between the 1st and 2nd grade “Discovery Works” curriculum, along with the use of supplemental materials to enhance the learning experience.

While working towards the standards, our class will take part in the school’s science fair with our own class project this spring, in which the students extensively experience the scientific inquiry method in action.

One year, students will learn more about the life cycles of living things, compare/contrast traits of plants & animals, use tools to construct simple structures, work as a team with their classmates, and observe and record patterns of organisms and objects like the sun & moon.

Another year, students will learn about the properties of objects, motion when force is applied, the basic needs of living things, to use simple tools to answer questions about the natural world, to practice recording observations using pictures and words, and demonstrate knowledge of how the parts of a structure work together to perform a function.

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A Place Where Minds and Hearts Grow

Religion

This is a very exciting year for the 2nd graders! In February, they will experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation and in May, receive First Holy Communion. The “Blest Are We” textbook by RCL/Benziger is used for sacramental preparation. Students learn that Jesus nourishes and strengthens God’s life of grace within us through the Sacraments and the Mass. The standards are taught in a way that excellently combines what Catholics believe, based on Scripture, with how we worship, how we live, and how we pray.

Students listen to and discuss passages from Scripture, experience prayer in multiple ways (including learning a few new prayers), and celebrate our Catholic traditions.



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2nd Grade

Social Studies

Our class will rotate each year between the 1st grade (“School & Family” theme) and the 2nd grade, (“Neighborhoods” theme) social studies curriculum, linked with the Archdiocese of Portland’s standards.

Supplemental teaching material will be used when needed.

The standards include a little bit of the following topics: history, geography, civics & government, economics/finances, and analysis of issues related to social science.

Teaching such diverse topics is exciting!

Math

A math inventory assessment is given to the students during the first week of school.

Based on that assessment and on the standards for Grade 2, mathematical concepts and skills are planned for each student’s instructional level.

Some of the main standards are:

Telling time; identifying coins and their value; place value; and two-digit addition and subtraction with ‘regrouping’. Once known as carrying & borrowing.

Students in the combined grade classroom receive Math instruction at their grade level.

The classroom teacher and an experienced instructional assistant work with the students by grade level.

Language Arts

Language arts is the gateway to learning all other subjects. Once reading for learning can take place, a child can grow in knowledge forever. This is why the subject of language arts is crucial for a child in the primary grades.

For the morning language arts time, students rotate through four stations: guided reading with the teacher, independent table work time on spelling practice or phonics, quiet reading at the carpet, and writing, which is planned by the teacher and overseen by the instructional assistant.

We also have literacy mini-lessons at different times throughout the day or week to learn about a new reading strategy, writing style, or to simply hear a good book read aloud to increase a love for reading.

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Formation

ENRICHED

Curriculum