



Grade 2

# Parents' Guide to Student Success

## THIS GUIDE INCLUDES:

- An overview of some of the key things your child will learn in English/Literacy, Math, Social Studies and Science in elementary school
- Ideas for activities to help your child learn more at home
- Topics of discussion for talking to your child's teacher about his or her academic progress

# Parents' Guide to Student Success

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The Parent Guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of Grade 2 in Mathematics, English Language Arts/Literacy, Social Studies and Science. This guide is based on the MA Curriculum Framework for ELA and Literacy, the MA Mathematics Framework, the MA History and Social Science Framework, and the MA Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework. If your child is meeting the expectations outlined in the standards, he or she will be well prepared for the third grade.

## Why Are Academic Standards Important?

Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in college and the workforce. Standards provide an important first step – a clear roadmap for learning for teachers, parents, and students. Having clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed. Clearly defined goals also help your child develop critical thinking skills that will prepare him or her for college and career.

## English Language Arts & Literacy

### A Sample of What Your Child Will Work On in Grade 2

- Paying close attention to detail, including illustrations and graphics, in stories and books to answer *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, *why*, and *how* questions
- Determining the central lesson or moral of stories, fables, and folktales
- Using text features to locate key facts or important information (e.g., captions, bold print, indexes)
- Writing an opinion about a book he or she has read, and supporting opinions with details from the text
- Writing stories that include a short sequence of events in order from first to last
- Participating in shared research projects
- Taking part in conversations by linking his or her comments to the remarks of others
- Retelling key information or ideas from media or books read aloud
- Producing, expanding, and rearranging sentences
- Applying grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words
- Determining the meaning of a new word when a prefix or suffix is added to a known word

#### Keeping the Conversation Focused

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In Grade 2, these include:

- Reading grade-level books and stories with understanding and fluency
- Knowing and applying grade-level phonics and word analysis skills to figure out new words
- Building a foundation of knowledge through reading and listening to books in content areas
- Writing stories and poems, informative texts and opinions with a topic, supporting details, and closure

*Ask to see a sample of your child's work. Ask the teacher questions such as: What does this show about my child as a learner? Does my child need extra support or want to learn more about a subject; are there resources to help his or her learning outside the classroom?*

**Talking to  
Your Child's  
Teacher**

# Mathematics

## A Sample of What Your Child Will Work On in Grade 2

- Solving addition and subtraction word problems with one or two steps
- Quickly and accurately adding with a sum of 20 or less, and subtracting from a number 20 or less
- Understanding place value - what the digits mean in three-digit numbers
- Using place value to add or subtract three-digit numbers
- Measuring and estimating length in standard units
- Solving word problems involving addition and subtraction of length
- Building, drawing, and analyzing 2-D and 3-D shapes

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### Keeping the Conversation Focused

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In Grade 2, these include:

- Using understanding of place value to add and subtract
- Solving more challenging addition and subtraction word problems
- Measuring lengths, and solving word problems involving addition and subtraction of lengths

# Science

## A Sample of What Your Child Will Work On in Grade 2

- Understanding that plants and animals are dependent on their environment for food, water and shelter
- Discovering that water can be found everywhere on Earth – in different forms
- Mapping landforms and bodies of water
- Demonstrating how wind and water shape landforms
- Classifying materials based on similar properties and functions
- Testing different materials to collect and then analyze data from the purpose of determining which materials are the best for a specific function
- Constructing larger objects from smaller pieces
- Learning that, when materials are cut into smaller pieces, the properties of the original materials do not change

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Teacher**

### Keeping the Conversation Focused

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In Grade 2, these include:

- Understanding that plants and animals are dependent on their environment
- Understanding that wind and water shape landforms and changes are recorded on maps
- Classifying and testing materials – identifying important properties

# Social Studies

## A Sample of What Your Child Will Work On in Grade 2

- Using a calendar to identify days, weeks, months, years, and seasons
- Using correctly words and phrases related to chronology and time (e.g., *now*, *long ago*, *in the future*)
- Explaining the information that historical timelines convey and putting in events from one's own life in chronological order
- Describing how maps and globes depict geographical information in different ways
- Defining and giving examples of some of the rights and responsibilities that students as citizens have in the school (e.g., right to vote in a class election; responsibility to follow school rules)
- Giving examples of fictional characters of real people in the school or community who were good leaders and good citizens and explaining the qualities that made them admirable
- Explaining and using words relating to work, such as producers and consumers
- On a world map, locating all of the continents and oceans, plus major mountains and rivers of the world
- Explaining the difference between an continent and a country and providing an example of each
- Explaining examples of traditions and customs from other countries found in America today

**Talking to  
Your Child's  
Teacher**

### Keeping the Conversation Focused

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In Grade 2, these include:

- Participating in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about Grade 2 topics and texts
- Demonstrating understanding of a text read aloud or information presented orally by asking and answering questions about key details
- Reading grade-level information text with accuracy and understanding
- Applying grade-level phonics and word analysis skills to figure out unknown words
- Comparing and contrasting texts on the same topic
- Writing informative text and opinions with a topic, supportive details, and closure

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