



# SECOND GRADE



"Once children learn how to learn, nothing is going to narrow their mind. The essence of teaching is to make learning contagious, to have one idea spark another." ~ *Marva Collins*



Second Grade at Covenant is a year of refining, strengthening, and polishing. It is here that we begin to use the skills we've mastered in grades K and 1 to move beyond the basics. Second graders learn through active, purposeful interactions with a wide variety of learning materials and activities which develop the growth of the whole child. By combining hands-on learning with classical methods of direct instruction, repetition, recitation and memorization and repeated application, our second graders begin to view themselves as literate, proficient learners capable of taking on greater challenges. Second grade is the year to put it all into practice while taking a sneak peek into the world of the independent learner.

If you peeked into the Second Grade Classroom you might see...

- Children working together and independently, interacting with learning materials such as unifix cubes,

pattern blocks, pencils, crayons, paper, glue, trade books, white boards, journals, skill-based games etc. as they refine the skills they've acquired in previous years.

- A group of students cutting and pasting products from weekly newspaper ads to practice adding and subtracting money; or perhaps number scrolls being created to explore number patterns.
- Desks grouped together with place value disks on them, surrounded by children working together to create and deconstruct larger numbers to better understand the value of each digit.
- Children practicing their oral fluency using sound phones, reciting phonemes or chanting poems.
- Students gathered together actively listening as the teacher explains the lesson for the day or utilizing the "word of the day" in spoken or written language.
- A classroom immersed in the joy of great literature used across the curriculum, read dramatically by the teacher sitting before them; bookshelves lined with great classic stories for the children's personal use.
- A large American flag made by the children, who traced and cut out their handprints, to honor those who serve and sacrifice for this country.
- Children being encouraged to celebrate and acknowledge the caring adults in their lives through special songs, thank you notes, and presentations.
- A quiet group of students at their desks engaged in the process of writing stories, poems, and paragraphs, applying the rules of spelling, phonics and proper letter formation as they continue to develop into fluent readers and writers. The budding skills of literacy are celebrated as students come forth to share their work with the class.
- The teacher working one-on-one with a student, reviewing their work, answering questions, encouraging her to do her best work always.
- Children learning about their God and Creator by exploring the truths evident in His holy, inspired word and worshiping Him through music, prayer, and recitation of scripture.
- A simulation of the terrain of Mars being created by the students, using steel wool, water and dirt; planets and stars hanging from the ceiling as the classroom is converted to a model of space.
- Children discovering the wonders and development of God's world as they explore together landforms, the migration of people to North America, Native Americans, European explorers, early colonists from Jamestown and Plymouth, the state of Massachusetts, geography, astronomy, rocks and minerals, and Wisconsin Fast Plants.
- Children enjoying weekly visits with specialists to explore the worlds of music, art, physical education and literature appreciation.
- Children walking quietly to the playground, where they then break into laughter, running, climbing, and learning to play together daily through both organized and free outdoor play.