

Second Grade Curriculum

At Canyon Heights Academy, a private Catholic school in Campbell, CA, our Second Grade curriculum continues to lay a strong foundation for a lifelong joy for learning. Our Integral Formation model is designed to foster intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, compassionate leadership, and a moral character rooted in Catholic values.

Language Arts - Reading, Spelling, and Composition

Our language arts program is designed to develop greater fluency in literacy as well as decoding skills to pursue more challenging texts. Students in second grade are also encouraged in their creative writing through imaginative exercises and critical thinking, socratic discussions.

In reading, students will:

- Master basic decoding skills, using phenomenal and phonological awareness
- Master oral fluency when reading aloud, including reading with confidence and expression
- Develop comprehension skills: summarizing, identifying main themes, analyzing cause and effect, discussing author's point of view, and discerning fact or opinion
- Begin making inferences through interpretation and evaluation of context clues
- Explore literature elements: main idea, cause/effect, sequencing, fact vs. opinion, and point of view
- Explore and identify various literary genres: fiction, nonfiction, classical works, contemporary works, and poetry

In phonics and spelling, students will:

- Reinforce a balanced blend of decoding and encoding skills and apply these skills in multiple settings such as spelling games and dictation
- Correctly spell high frequency and commonly used words
- Consistently use content-rich words, developing an ever-growing vocabulary

In grammar and composition, students will:

- Compose organized paragraphs, using proper grammar and punctuation
- Use the Lucy-Caulkins writing program to plan, draft, revise, and publish writing
- Write creative stories, personal letters, essays, poems, and short reports
- Practice using more complex and compound sentences in composition
- Organize ideas, developing key word outlines and expanding on personal knowledge

In handwriting, students will:

- Write legibly and efficiently in both manuscript and cursive using D'Nealian formation on lined and unlined paper, building to solid mastery of these skills.

Communication Skills - Listening and Speaking

We give students many opportunities to share their voice through classroom projects, socratic method instruction, and wider audience engagements, which fosters confidence and poise for a lifetime of self-advocacy.

Students will:

- Sustain focused attention for a minimum of 35-40 minutes
- Ask and answer questions clearly and respectfully
- Recite poems and passages from memory
- Present oral reports with organized main ideas
- Practice public speaking skills with poise and confidence

Mathematics - Developing Problem-Solving Skills

Our elementary math curriculum emphasizes logical thinking and problem-solving abilities through interactive lessons and hands-on practice to real-world application, using the Sadlier Math program.

Students will:

- Advance proficiency in addition, subtraction, and place value
- Develop speed and proficiency in multiplication and begin division (1-12 times tables)
- Further develop understanding of time, money, measurement, algebraic reasoning, and geometrical figures and concepts
- Solve word problems using critical thinking strategies
- Read and interpret graphs and tables, modeling multiple data sets
- Develop understanding of Roman numerals in time-telling
- Develop financial literacy and decimal-place mathematics through currency activities
- Practice mental math: enhance skills in mental computation, speed math, and mathematical inquiry and reasoning

Science - Experiential and Investigative

Our science program encourages inquiry, exploration, and wonder about God's creation. Students learn through hands-on experiments and discovery-based learning.

Students will:

- Engage in hands-on experiments and STEM-based investigations, using the scientific method
- Develop scientific thinking skills, including analyzing, predicting, and hypothesizing
- Study life cycles of plants and animals, energy and motion, Earth science
- Explore human anatomy, health, and nutrition through the lens of God's design
- Appreciate humanity's role in stewardship of the Earth and how that divinely inspired balance of life on Earth can be shifted by our actions or lack of action
- Complete a class science fair project

Social Studies - American History & Geography

Second Grade social studies at Canyon Heights Academy introduces students to community, history, and the world around them.

Students will:

- Deepen understanding of chronology, community building, and historical change over time
- Focus on Ancient Civilizations (Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome), developing understanding of topography, landforms, waterways, and cities
- Explore local and national geography, maps, and patriotic symbols
- Study maps and globes: keys/legends, compass rose, cardinal directions, etc.
- Compare and contrast historical stories, people, places, and situations
- Understand points of view based on perspective, developing concepts of community
- Continue advancement in research skills

Faith Formation - Christ-Centered

Through our religious education program, children begin to understand that they are intentionally and uniquely created in God's image and called to live with purpose and love. A main focus of the Second Grade faith-formation program is preparation for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion.

Students will:

- Deepen their understanding of moral law and conscience formation
- Begin more direct Biblical study
- Prepare for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion
- Reflect on and become proficient in participating reverently in Holy Mass
- Understand how their body is a gift from God through the Theology of the Body curriculum
- Use Sacred Story prayer as a daily reflective practice

Enrichment Programs - Co-curricular

To nurture the whole child, Second Grade students also attend weekly classes in:

- Art
- Music
- Library
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- Spanish Language
- Physical Education

These subjects enrich creativity, expression, motor skills, and global awareness.

Why Families Choose Canyon Heights Academy

As one of the top-rated Catholic private schools in Campbell, CA, Canyon Heights Academy offers a comprehensive, Christ-centered education that forms students in academics, character, and leadership. Our Second Grade curriculum is carefully crafted to support children's intellectual and spiritual development in a nurturing and joyful environment.

Located in the heart of Silicon Valley, we proudly serve families from Campbell, San Jose, Los Gatos, Saratoga, and the greater Bay Area.