





**EARLY CHILDHOOD**  
**DISCOVERY AND DESIGN**  
**MAGNET SCHOOL**

**JANE MURPHY, PRINCIPAL**  
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**NICOLAS CRACCO, MAGNET SPECIALIST**

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Welcome to Second Grade and thank you for coming to our special orientation event! We are so pleased that you've chosen our school for your young learner and look forward to learning and growing together in the coming year.

Included in this packet are the "nuts and bolts" of our Second Grade program. We hope that it answers most of your general questions about what the coming year will offer and we look forward to the more personal introduction we'll do in September.

Thank you,

The ECDD Second Grade Team



## Our Curriculum

### **Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Journeys**

#### HMH Journeys:

- Alignment to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)
- According to the benchmarks, students in second grade should be coming in at a reading level J and leaving at a reading level M. We use the Journeys curriculum to help support students in reading. Journeys is a balanced literacy program.



#### Journeys has several important components:

- High Frequency Words
- Vocabulary Words
- Grammar
- Phonics
- Two Anchor Texts (Fiction, Informational Text, Poetry)
- Comprehension Strategies
- Guided Reading

#### Balanced:

- Encompasses all 5 strands (Phonemic Awareness, Phonics (Foundations: teaches letters, letter sounds, spelling and handwriting), Vocabulary, Comprehension, Fluency)
- Reading Skills and Strategies are reinforced throughout

- Focus is on both written and oral comprehension

#### Instructional Practices Include:

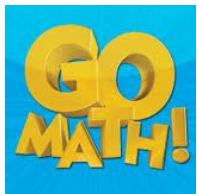
- Clear Goals and expectations
- Explicit Instruction
- Aligned Standards and Instructional Practices
- Rich practices to develop students who can read, write, and speak well
- Supports English Language Learners
  - rich visual context pictures
  - child friendly sentences to introduce vocabulary and connects to meaning

#### Differentiated Instruction:

- Abundance of resources to support the teacher edition from the struggling reader all the way to the advanced reader
- Intervention Plan:
  - Uses an acceleration model to help students achieve grade expectations
  - Targets deficiencies with interactive lessons, focused instruction
  - Home-connection (parent letters) and student online access at home

#### On-going Assessment:

- Formative and Summative
- Progress Monitoring
- Prescriptive data-driven instruction



## **Go Math Curriculum**

Second grade math becomes more complex and involves higher numbers. By the end of second grade, students should be familiar with numbers within 1000. They should be able to fluently add numbers to 20 mentally.

Students will be given the opportunity to become Math CHAMPS if they learn all their basic math facts. Once they have mastered all their math facts, they will be celebrated with a school wide announcement, as well as their picture featured on our Math CHAMPS Wall of Fame!! Students will be learning multiple ways to solve word problems. Common Core standards focus heavily on place value and number sense.

We will be using Go Math! as a core curriculum. This program uses activities to support second grade standards. The students receive guided instruction in the key 2<sup>nd</sup> grade standards. Teachers encourage students to discuss their thoughts, ideas, and strategies for better understanding.



### **Social Studies and Science:**

In Social Studies, students will be learning about the history and growth of New York City. Students will be exploring our school community as well as the community of New York City as a whole. Second graders will learn how to read and interpret maps and globes. They will also become familiar with landforms all over the world. Students will be working on geography, culture, types of communities in New York, how New York has changed over time, and government.

Science curriculum in second grade is a hands on and integrated curriculum. Students will be learning about earth materials, properties of earth materials, force and motion, plants, and plant adaptations.

Students will also be visiting the LEGO Lab once a week to work on engineering and robotics projects that support each unit.

### **Engineering/Robotics**

LEGO Education a multi-faceted program. It is the process of children actively building, exploring, investigating, inquiring, and communicating; developing a wide range of skills, knowledge, and understanding. The curriculum includes force and motion, simple and other engineering concepts that we study through simple machines Using We Do, students will also complete two robotics projects that are integrated into our curriculum: Robotic cars in the winter and playground equipment in the spring.

### **Social and Emotional**

Students have direct instruction weekly in skills related to College and Career Readiness, including topics such as persistence, self-esteem and getting along with others.



## The Arts

Students have dance, music and art classes each week.



## Homework

A packet of homework will be sent home every Friday or Monday. The work is to be completed at home and returned Friday. Every night your child will also be responsible for reading at home and completing a log. It is important to return the book(s) and the log weekly. It is very important that second graders read **at least 20 minutes** each night. Please encourage your child to be responsible for keeping up with the books/homework. Thank you for being supportive of your child and their homework.

## UNIFORM and SUPPLIES

Please remember our yellow and khaki, choices for uniforms. Children should wear socks and play shoes with closed toes. Uniforms should be worn **every day**.



A **bookbag** or **backpack** is a necessity for your child's ease of carrying papers, daily snack and lunch, Library books, or school supplies. Anything that is brought to school--backpack, lunch bag, sweater, hat/visor for the sun, jacket, umbrella, personal supplies--should have your child's **name** to help locate misplaced items.

### Healthy Snacks

In order to learn effectively, students need a healthy school environment. To ensure that ECDD provides a healthy school environment, we are suggesting the type of healthy snacks that can be included in student lunches and provided at classroom parties. Remember parents it is "healthy **snacks only!**"

The link between nutrition and learning is well documented. Healthy eating patterns are essential for students to achieve their full academic potential, full physical and mental growth, and lifelong health and well - being. ECDD staff believes that they have a responsibility to help students establish and maintain lifelong, healthy eating patterns.

Foods available to students as part of their school day should be nutritionally dense, low in fat and sugars, and moderate in portion size.

Here are some "bottom-line" expectations we have for every student:

- Arrive for school promptly at 8:00 AM (7:30 for breakfast!)
- Participate in developing into independent learners
- Be ready for a fun day of learning (This includes getting a good night's sleep)
- Be safe, responsible and accountable in school
- Be kind - We take care of each other and ourselves. We all deserve to be treated respectfully.





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We look forward to a  
wonderful year!

See you in September!