

Sonoran Sky Elementary School

Curriculum Highlights

Second Grade

Theme: Excellence – No Limits

If you're a second grader at Sonoran Sky, you're in for a wonderful adventure! As teachers, our goal is to give second graders wings to fly. We want them to begin soaring through reading books that are carefully chosen for their leveled instruction and enjoyment. Every child is taught strategy tools to equip them to become fluent readers.

We also want them to take flight with our mathematical building blocks. This comes from knowing their math facts up to 20 in addition and subtraction, addition and subtraction with regrouping, problem solving, telling time, counting money, and an introduction to multiplication. Our science and social studies curriculum keeps us all flying with many hands-on activities.

A Sonoran Sky second grader loves school and every aspect of it. Our hope is that second graders will take their love for learning into the world to make it a better place.

Second grade consists of a variety of academic content areas taught within a cooperative learning environment. Throughout these content areas, Howard Gardner's "Multiple Intelligences" are emphasized to help students stretch and grow while feeling successful in their learning.

Programs in **art, music, physical education** and **media/technology** are also provided to students at Sonoran Sky. Trained specialists not only teach essential skills relative to their special areas, but also work with classroom teachers to plan learning experiences, which enrich classroom curriculum and assist children in discovering their own strengths and talents. The second grade comprehensive curriculum includes:

Reading & Language Arts

Second graders use the Harcourt Literacy Program. Harcourt coordinates phonics, grammar, vocabulary building, reading comprehension, and spelling into a well-thought-out program. Harcourt Literacy also incorporates guided reading groups (with appropriately leveled books), shared reading, independent reading, interactive writing, independent writing, and modeled writing.

One of the goals in second grade is to help all children become fluent readers. Second grade students are expected to read a minimum of two hours per week outside of school. Students turn in reading logs each week with the books read recorded on the back of the "Literacy Challenge" form. For the Sonoran Sky Literacy Challenge Program, a student may read any book of their choice. The time that someone else reads to a second grade student is also counted. Students who read a minimum of two hours per week are awarded a Reading Certificate at the end of the school year. Once a month, second graders have "Friendly Friday" where students invite a parent or friend to come to their classroom and read to them.

Math

The district math program is Harcourt. The series incorporates manipulatives while teaching problem solving and critical thinking skills. Computation and skill review activities are also part of this program.

Social Studies

Our students learn about mapping and geography, other cultures, archaeology, the American Revolution and symbols, Native Americans, pioneers and westward expansion. The students will experience these topics through read-alouds and interactive activities.

Science

The second grade science curriculum follows the Arizona State Standards. Units of study include: Life cycles, Solids, Liquids & Gases, Clouds, Inventors, and Human Body.

Homework

Homework requirements for second grade consist of 20-40 minutes each night, which should include reading. Three or four days of the week, we will specify a particular home activity on the Assignment Sheet to be returned to school. Assignment Sheets are activity calendars that are passed out on Friday prior to each school week and contain any classroom assignments and any upcoming happenings for the next week. The assignment is due on the day it appears on the Assignment Sheet. The days on which no assignment is specified, we would like the students to spend their homework time reading appropriately leveled books and practicing math facts. It's very important that parents help their child establish a regular time for homework every night.

Field Trips

Slim Goodbody Performance

Pioneer Village

Health Day Adventures in the Park