



2nd Grade

Program Overview



Update: August 28, 2014

Second grade is a time to encourage your child's developing curiosity and ability to understand more complex ideas. Our balanced literacy approach provides a solid framework of integration between all language arts skills. Reading other books at home is encouraged. Teaching comprehension strategies and vocabulary development are top priorities. Supplemental core stories also provide opportunity to integrate Biblical principles, science, social studies, health, art, and other subjects. Phonics will be reviewed this year to make decoding skills secure. Technology is used to enhance learning experiences.

We use "process writing" in which students brainstorm to organize prewriting ideas, draft their writing, obtain teacher or peer response to the draft, revise, edit, and then "publish" selected pieces. Spelling and usage skills are developed through context rather than isolation. A limited number of words are targeted for spelling mastery.

McGraw Hill's *My Math* textbook is the primary resource for math practice and homework.

Harcourt *Science* and Harcourt *Social Studies* provide inquiry-based learning in those areas.

We encourage children to use *The International Children's Bible*, provided new in second grade, for both home and school reading.

Specialists teach your child Mandarin, visual arts, performing arts, physical education, and library media skills. Each has a key part in your child's week.

The vision of the Morrison Academy educators is that a maturing Morrison student will be a(n),

Moral and ethical citizen,

- make ethical decisions from a Biblical perspective
- respect persons of other ages, races, cultures, faiths, and values
- demonstrate self-control in attitude and behavior

Spiritual discerner

- appreciate who God is and His provision for reconciliation through Jesus Christ
- apply Biblical principles and values into life situations
- accept his/her self-worth as God's creation

Critical thinker and Creative Thinker

- analyze, interpret, evaluate, and synthesize concepts within various contexts
- utilize mathematics to problem-solve effectively
- create original products and works with high standards

Life-long learner

- maintain intellectual curiosity
- utilize the scientific inquiry method
- utilize technology appropriately

Effective communicator

- read and write skillfully and purposefully
- demonstrate competence in speaking and listening
- contribute to groups collaboratively with interpersonal skills

Wise and Responsible Steward

- serve others generously and compassionately
- maintain disciplined health habits
- appreciate the performing and visual arts

Language Arts

Students are created in God's image with the unique ability to communicate, create, and express ideas. The language arts develop these abilities to understand and influence God's world for His glory. Therefore, Morrison offers a balanced language arts approach that teaches students to read with fluency and comprehension, evaluate text and media with discernment, listen with understanding and compassion, speak with conviction and effect, and write with clarity and persuasion. (O'Malley 1999)

A variety of literature books, technology, mentor writing samples, and other resources provide opportunity for reading, writing, research, speaking, and listening. A stronger emphasis on reading comprehension begins as students become more fluent readers. Vocabulary and spelling are also studied through direct instruction and independent discovery. Reading other books at home is vital for continued reading and writing improvement. Students continue to use writing as a way to express thoughts, write stories, and share learning. Second graders will also explore using technology to enhance and share their learning.

Reading

Use spelling patterns

New vocabulary: antonyms, synonyms, multi-meaning words, root words, classroom resources

Learn & use reading strategies (predict with evidence, summarize what is important, infer)

Non-fiction: know text features

Fiction: problem & solution

Writing

Personal narrative

Expository: 1 paragraph with 1 topic with teacher help

Research project using Super 3 (1 minute presentation)

Traits of Writing

Speaking/Listening

Recite, narrate, explain

using simple format

Listen for key words & ask questions:

Science

Morrison's science program seeks to help students gain knowledge of God through the study of His creation. This is accomplished with an activity-oriented program where teachers and students think analytically and logically, solve problems creatively, and use technology as a tool. Morrison endeavors to help students acquire developmentally appropriate concepts and science skills to make positive contributions as Christians in an increasingly scientific and technological society.

Students will explore how the motion of objects can be observed and measured by learning about gravity, machines, magnets, and sound. They will also consider how all plants and animals have predictable life cycles and examine that the Earth is made of materials that have distinct properties and provides resources for human activities. Students are asked to create meaningful questions and conduct careful investigations.

Guidance

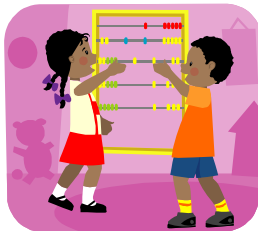
The program provides a biblically-based program that is available to all students, teachers/staff and parents helping them to recognize their uniqueness as individuals in Christ. Morrison seeks to provide a primarily proactive and preventative program which enables students to fulfill God's purpose in their lives by maturing spiritually, emotionally, academically, physically and socially.

Second grade students will continue to develop positive attitudes about themselves as unique and worthwhile people. Students will explore and learn how to resolve conflicts with others, discuss issues related to personal safety (including fire, guns, asking for permission, safe and unsafe touch, and dealing with a bully), and learn to understand and respect the differences in others.

Math

Morrison Academy strives to develop students who obtain a mastery of, and appreciation for, the content and processes of mathematics, as well as an understanding of how mathematics relates to other domains in life. While the study of mathematics occurs mostly within finite creation, it points us towards the character of an infinite God who values logic, order and consistency. Therefore, the purpose of mathematical instruction at Morrison is to develop students whose mastery of content includes insight into logical processes that will enable students to make meaningful connections to a world of order and help them transfer math concepts to other domains consistent to life. Such tangible engagement with math will help Morrison's students dynamically impact their world for Christ.

Second grade is the last year we focus intently on place value. The four critical areas of focus in 2nd grade are (1) extending understanding of base-ten notation; (2) building fluency with addition and subtraction; (3) using standard units of measure; and (4) describing and analyzing shapes. Students continue to use a variety of strategies to add and subtract, rather than rely only on the standard algorithm for adding and subtracting. Students also learn about Taiwan money during this year.



Physical Education

All people are creations of God designed to know and glorify Him through their lives and action. Therefore, Morrison's physical education program recognizes that our bodies are temples of God to be appropriately cared for and used in developing a mentally, physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually balanced life.

Students explore the world of motor skills by using games and age-appropriate movement drills. The games and drills utilized at this level aim to help students develop a good foundation in movement, fitness and sport. This is achieved by focusing on the development of the students' basic motor skills. The skills they learn at this stage are further developed and reinforced when they advance to the upper elementary grade levels. K- 2 PE also aims to develop in the students a love for exercise and participation in sport.

Health

Morrison Academy is committed to following Christ's example of a balanced life. Therefore we desire growth in four areas: wisdom (mental/emotional), stature (physical), favor with God (spiritual), and favor with man (social). Consistent with our integrated-based philosophy of education, we strive to incorporate instruction for life-long wellness throughout the



Mandarin Chinese

God has given us the gift of language to communicate with Himself, ourselves, and others. Morrison's Mandarin Chinese program is a foreign language program that equips all students to communicate more effectively in a global context to better impact their world as Christians. This is done through a unit-driven curricular program that teaches all students the four basic tenets (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) of communication as well as Chinese culture and Christian concepts.

Teachers use high yield instructional strategies, a variety of materials, teaching styles, and enriching activities that are age-appropriate, promote higher order thinking, relevant, and integrate technology and faith.

Library Media Skills

Morrison Academy recognizes that people are gifted by God with the ability to inquire, gain knowledge, and delight in the creativity of others. Morrison Academy library program strives to equip students to enjoy information by teaching them how to use information effectively. The Library Media Center will support students by providing opportunities to become critical thinkers, life-long learners, enthusiastic readers, skillful researchers, and ethical users of information.

The second grade library media class will enable students to critically respond to a variety of literature. Students will learn that they can use a variety of sources, in and out of the library media center, to answer their questions. In addition, students will have experience applying and using their personal Destiny account to find books and other resources. Students will be taught that there is a need for information privacy online.



Bible

God is the source of all truth, and the Bible is God's special revelation for all humanity. Through it we are introduced to the life of faith and the redemption offered to all in Christ Jesus. We comprehensively teach the Bible to foster biblical literacy, develop spiritual discernment, and equip students with a Christian worldview resulting in students who are transformed by the Holy Spirit and willing to be obedient to God's truth. Bible education aims to encourage each student to love God and to serve others.

The Morrison Academy Bible Curriculum: 5 strands

- *Biblical Literacy*-Students will know basic content of the Bible: stories about Old and New Testament characters, chronology, cultural and historical background, recurring themes and topics.
- *Spiritual Discernment*-Students will be able to appreciate who God is and accept one's self worth as God's creation, while distinguishing right from wrong.
- *Biblical Worldview*-Bible classes not only impart biblical and theological knowledge but use it as the basis of a biblical worldview which is used to explore the world.
- *Christian Character*-Through the teaching of the Bible we desire to see the love of God perfected in our students so that they know God, obey God's commands and love others.
- *Christian Service*-Beginning in middle school, intentional, hands-on service to local and global communities enhances students' academic learning, a natural outworking of biblical truth.

Second graders study how the Old Testament heroes like Moses, Joshua, Daniel, Job, Esther, and Elijah point to the redemptive story. In the New Testament, students will look at parts of the life of Jesus while exploring heroes like Peter, Paul, Barnabas, and Silas. Time is spent learning what the Bible says about how to speak to others and obey those in authority.

Social Studies

Social studies instruction at Morrison unites two important elements:

- *Acquiring a solid knowledge base of historical, geographical, civic, economic, and cultural concepts.*
- *Acquiring a social studies skill set to apply knowledge to situations using a global Christian perspective.*

Morrison's social studies program seeks to develop students who can influence the kingdoms of mankind as critically-thinking citizens of the Kingdom of God. We provide developmentally appropriate instruction through a balance of inquiry learning and direct teaching. Though implementing a United States based curriculum, we recognize the importance of a global approach to social studies curricula to meet the needs of our diverse population.

People

Grade 2 students will learn about the daily lives of native peoples around the world and discuss some of the cultural contributions various native peoples have made to the world. Students will continue to learn more about the world in which they live by exploring world maps, identifying landforms, and constructing simple maps of their own. Second graders will also step into the world of economics by identifying natural resources, recognizing the effects of supply and demand of the marketplace, and understanding the steps in the production of goods.



Visual and Performing Arts

Morrison Academy recognizes that students are made in the image of their Creator and that God has endowed them with His creativity and individual gifts. Because training in visual and performing arts is an essential component of educating the whole person, students must be given the opportunity to explore, develop, and enjoy their God-given artistic abilities. Students will learn to express their creativity by experiencing, appreciating and discerning the arts from historical, contemporary and multi-cultural perspectives. Morrison Academy's arts programs endeavor to use the arts to glorify and worship God, equip students to serve His church, and impact their world in a relevant and dynamic way.

Performing Arts

All elementary students receive general music instruction. Emphasis is placed on performance (playing various instruments, singing, improvisation, concert etiquette), notation (melody, rhythm, music symbols, reading music), and music appreciation (history of instruments and composers, folk dance, music of other cultures).

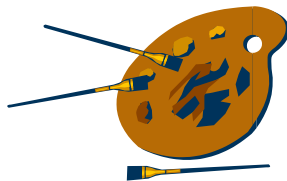
More complex movements and instrumental skills allow them to take performances to the next level. As students' fine motor skills are now more developed composition takes on a more established form using a staff, quarter notes and eighth notes, rests, and expressive elements. There is more complex categorizing of instruments by sound and family, with a brass emphasis. Students will also begin classifying world music by region.



Visual Arts

Children who complete the six grade levels of elementary art at Morrison Academy will be able to *create* art using a variety of art mediums in both the second and third dimensions and identify and use the common elements and principles of art. With confidence, they will create art that *communicates* their own thinking, tells stories, shares ideas, or evokes emotions. They will be led to *appreciate* the work of their peers, the art handed down through history, art from other cultures, and the place of art and artists in their world today.

Second Grade art is a hands-on class building on what students experienced in kindergarten and first grade art. Second grade art students will draw, design, paint, cut, glue, print or stamp, and work with clay to create art safely using a variety of art materials and tools. The students will learn to describe and use patterns, balance, secondary colors, and many other principles and elements of art. They will use art to communicate their personal interests or event in their lives. They will use art to learn about other cultures and some art history. They will also have an opportunity to explore digital art.



How Parents Can Help

Activities That Support Your Child's Learning

- Read to and with your child daily, asking questions about what is being read
- Praise your child's reading efforts
- Encourage older children to read to their younger siblings
- Model the importance of reading by being a reader yourself
- Talk and listen to your child
- Help your child keep a writing notebook or journal with entries once or twice a week
- Provide a quiet place for homework and study
- Help your child capitalize on his developing learning style
- Allow your child as much independence as he proves he can handle
- Encourage your child to ask questions and seek answers
- Celebrate successes
- Create special times to be alone with your child to participate in activities (cooking dinner, working in the shop, etc.)
- Take your child to places and talk about the visit(s)
- Read poems and songs; encourage your child to memorize the words
- Tell your child family stories, especially events that happened when you were his/her age
- Watch television with your child and discuss the programs together; limit viewing time; choose programs with care
- Play memory and math games, vocabulary games, physical games
- Talk with your child about the school work he/she brings home
- Give your child responsibilities such as bed making and picking up personal belongings
- Communicate your expectations regarding his/her behavior and performance at school

"Fathers, do not make your children angry, but raise them with the training and teaching of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4 (ICB)