

WELCOME TO GRADE 2!

A Family's Guide to the *Kentucky Academic Standards*

This guide was made to help families understand the *Kentucky Academic Standards* and to show what children will learn by the end of 2nd grade. This tool provides information about the key ideas and skills teachers will introduce in mathematics, reading and writing, science and social studies. It includes possible examples of what students will be asked to do in class, how to help your child at home, questions you can ask your 2nd-grader and questions families can ask their child's teacher.

This guide also was designed to help parents understand how they can work with teachers to support the learning of their 2nd-grader. When teachers and families work together to help students master *Kentucky's Academic Standards*, students can succeed by developing the skills they will need for life after graduation.

If you have questions about this information or if your child needs extra help, please contact your child's teacher.

Why are the *Kentucky Academic Standards* important?

Kentucky Academic Standards are important because they help make sure that all students, no matter where they live or what school they attend, have the skills they need to go after a successful future. Standards represent a goal or outcome of a subject area (such as mathematics, reading and writing, science and social studies). They help set clear and consistent expectations for what students should know and be able to do from kindergarten through high school. The standards are not a curriculum and do not determine the design of a lesson plan or how units should be organized. Decisions on how best to help students meet the goals in the standards are left to local school districts and teachers.

How are the standards organized?

The *Kentucky Academic Standards* are organized differently based on the content area. Some of the *Kentucky Academic Standards* are arranged grade-by-grade, while others are grouped into several grade levels, such as "high school" for grades 9-12. In all subjects, the standards show what students should learn and be able to do, but not how those learning experiences are to be designed or what resources should be used. For more information on the *Kentucky Academic Standards*, visit <https://kystandards.org/> to read the complete standards and find standards-related resources.



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GRADE 2 MATHEMATICS

OVERVIEW:

During 2nd grade, students will develop the ability to add and subtract up to 20 and add and subtract up to 100 using place value and properties of operations. Your child will:

- Begin working with equal groups of objects to build a foundation for learning multiplication;
- Understand shapes and their attributes; and
- Use measurement to make a dot chart.

Examples of Your Child's Work at School:

- Solving one- and two-step word problems using addition and subtraction up to 100;
- Mentally adding and subtracting up to 20;
- Adding and subtracting up to 100 using specific strategies;
- Adding and subtracting up to 1,000 using specific strategies;
- Understanding the meaning of the place value of hundreds, tens and ones, and comparing three-digit numbers;
- Solving word problems involving length and money;
- Identifying, drawing and describing triangles, quadrilaterals, pentagons, hexagons and cubes; and
- Dividing circles and rectangles into halves, thirds and fourths.

How to Help Your Child at Home:

- Ask your child which tools he or she would use to measure the length of a pen versus the length of your home?
- After baking a pan of brownies, have your child draw the different possibilities to equally divide the brownies into halves, thirds and fourths.
- When shopping with your child, have her or him practice counting the change.
- Have your child add and subtract up to 1,000 using strategies they have learned in class.

Questions You Can Ask Your Child:

- What tools would use to measure the length of a pan versus the length of your home?
- Why did you choose the tool you used?
- Are the different ways to make thirds equal sizes?
- How many juice boxes are in three packages?
- How much change will we have after we pay for our snacks with this \$10 bill?

Questions You Can Ask Your Child's Teacher:

- Which addition/subtraction strategies work well for my child?
- How can I get my child solving real-world problems?
- What do you think is giving my child the most trouble? How can I help him or her improve in this area?
- What will my child will be learning this year? How can I support his or her development in that area?

GRADE 2 READING AND WRITING

OVERVIEW:

During 2nd grade, students will become more independent readers and writers as they learn more skills. Your child will:

- Explore vowel sounds in words and read regular and irregularly spelled words;
- Listen to, read, talk and write about 2nd-grade fiction and nonfiction using clues from the text to make sense of and analyze what they have read;
- Form uppercase and lowercase cursive letters;
- Compose and publish a variety of writing pieces; and
- Speak and write appropriately using parts of speech, capitalization, punctuation and generalized spelling patterns, as well as language that shows a growing vocabulary; use glossaries/beginning dictionaries.

Examples of Your Child's Work at School:

- Using context clues to check for understanding when reading;
- Using phonics knowledge to read unknown words;
- Using knowledge about words to determine new words. (If I know ____, then I know ____.); and
- Asking and answering questions about key ideas and details.

How to Help Your Child at Home:

- Engage your child in repeated readings of favorite texts using expression and voices for characters.
- Talk about favorite texts (books, movies, commercials, songs, etc.). Remember, text is anything that communicates a message.
- Encourage your child to notice and correct mistakes when reading but wait until they get to the end of a sentence before doing so. The goal is for your child to stop themselves when something does not make sense. Point and ask: What letters and sounds are in this word? What parts of the word do you know? Then ask: Does that make sense?
- Practice using known words to determine new words.
- Discuss stories, poems, recipes, movies or anything else your child enjoys. Text can be anything! The goal is to make sense of texts by using evidence.
- Encourage your child to connect background knowledge (what they know from experience) to text.

Questions You Can Ask Your Child:

- What book did you check out from the library this week? What can you tell me about it?
- Can you connect with what is happening in the text? Why or why not?
- What have you learned from the text?
- Can you show me a sample of something you have written recently? Tell me about how you decided what you would write. Show me a section of your writing you are proud of/still working on/would like to make better.

Questions You Can Ask Your Child's Teacher:

- What is my child reading and writing about at school?
- What vocabulary words does my child need to learn?
- How can I encourage learning at home and what resources do I need to support my child?

GRADE 2 SCIENCE

OVERVIEW:

During 2nd grade, your child will be an active learner who will be doing science to learn science. They will learn skills that promote analysis and interpretation of data, critical thinking and problem solving similar to professionals in the field while making connections across the different areas of science to develop a deeper understanding of the science concepts. Your child will:

- Observe the different kinds of plants and animals living in different environments and areas;
- Understand how wind and water can change the shape of land by erosion, and how people can prevent or slow down these changes by doing things like planting trees and building fences;
- Explore how different materials look, feel and act differently; and
- Determine what plants need to grow and how they depend on animals for seed dispersal and pollination.

Examples of Your Child's Work at School:

- Experiment with how seeds travel and design a model to mimic pollination;
- Make observations about different materials and use the findings to determine which materials are best suited for a specific purpose;
- Design a solution to slow or prevent wind and water from changing the land and compare the solutions;
- Explore how heating and cooling things can cause them to change and observe that some changes (like melting ice) can be reversed but other changes (like cooking an egg) cannot; and
- Construct an explanation about changes in the earth's surface that happen quickly (volcanoes and earthquakes) or slowly (erosion).

How to Help Your Child at Home:

- Grow plants in a box garden or in planters and ask your child to discuss the things that will help the plants grow.
- Consider ways to stop wind or water from changing the shape of the ground in your yard or neighborhood.
- Observe and describe the plants and animals in your neighborhood. Determine what resources they need to survive and what features they have that help them to survive.
- Take your child to the local recycling center to see how they sort different materials based on properties.
- Examine maps and have them point out the land and water on the maps. Discuss where you can find water and hills near your home.

Questions You Can Ask Your Child:

- Where do you see erosion in your yard or community? How could we slow down the erosion?
- How are these two items similar or different?
- If we melt this, can we reverse the change?
- What kind of animals can you find in the desert, ocean or forest?
- Why did that bee land on the flower?

Questions You Can Ask Your Child's Teacher:

- What can we do at home to encourage curiosity about the world?
- What are some investigations we can do to see how some materials are best suited for a specific purpose?
- How do I explain to my child that the earth's surface is changing slowly, even though it doesn't look that way?
- Where are some places in the community that we can explore to learn more about plants and erosion?
- How often does my child learn about science?

GRADE 2 SOCIAL STUDIES

OVERVIEW:

In 2nd grade, students begin to understand how communities work together throughout North America (Canada, Mexico and the U.S.). Your child will:

- Compare the rights and responsibilities of citizens;
- Compare the ways various cultures in North America connect and interact;
- Categorize different limited resources as renewable and nonrenewable; and
- Identify and compare the diverse cultural groups of North America in the past and today.

Examples of Your Child's Work at School:

- Explaining the need for civic and political structures, such as community centers and governments, in North America;
- Explaining why people specialize in the production of goods and services;
- Analyzing reasons for similarities and differences in the settlement patterns of North America and Kentucky; and
- Describing the events and innovations that affect North America.

How to Help Your Child at Home:

- Encourage your child to ask questions. When your child asks questions, rather than give answers immediately, suggest thinking about where the answer might be found.
- Read with your child every day. Actively seek out social studies related books at your school or local library.
- Visit local museums, libraries and cultural institutions to explore how individuals and groups have shaped history.
- Discuss how limited resources (time, materials and natural resources) impact spending choices.
- Discuss how different groups work together to solve community problems.
- Talk to your child about the importance of civic participation, such as voting, etc., and locate examples in past and current events.

Questions You Can Ask Your Child:

- How can a person affect laws in the community?
- Why do some products cost more or less than other products?
- What are different ways problems in a community are solved?

Questions You Can Ask Your Child's Teacher:

- What books and authors would support my child's learning?
- What games can help my child practice locations at home?
- What places can I visit with my child in the local community that may help him or her learn what is being taught in class?
- What resources are available to support learning about social studies skills?