

## Second Grade Mission Statement

Second Grade is an important step in the building of the foundation of a child's education. It is the last of the "primary" grades. Academically, the main focus of the day centers on Language Arts and Math skills. We build upon the reading and writing skills that were introduced in Kindergarten and First Grade. We concentrate on independent silent reading, oral reading that is more fluent and expressive, comprehension and critical thinking skills. We expand our writing skills into story writing, correct grammar and punctuation usage, improved penmanship, and transition to cursive penmanship. In Math, the basics learned in the earlier grades are incorporated into more complex concepts. Regrouping in addition and subtraction, multiple-step story problems, fractions, geometry, time and money, and the beginning stages of multiplication and division are included in the Second Grade curriculum. In Science, we spend the year studying three major areas - Life Science, Physical Science and Earth Science. We get to do many hands-on activities and projects relating to the material covered. Social Studies focuses on Neighborhoods. We do an in-depth study of our own neighborhood. We get a chance to look at several faraway neighborhoods and compare them to our own. In addition, certain holidays throughout the year are included in our studies. We also have special "fun" days throughout the year, such as Teddy Bear Day, Black and White Day (penguin theme), and Bear Day, where many of the skills are incorporated into fun-filled, theme-related activities.

What makes our Second Grade unique from others in the surrounding areas is the incorporation of Catholic teachings, traditions and morals in our school days. Here, our children learn and practice what it means to love God and love others. They hear stories about Jesus and the lessons and examples He set for all of us and try to follow them. They read about the lives of some saints and see how the teachings of Jesus can be put into practice. Reconciliation is not only a sacrament for Second Graders, but also an important part of their lives - learning to say "I'm sorry" and how to forgive. For many, the culminating point of Second Grade is the receiving of Jesus in their First Communion.

Second Grade is a wonderful grade here at St. Ann School. It's a time of growth physically, academically, and spiritually.

