

2nd Grade block schedule
Anna Folsom, Birchtree Charter School
2011-2012

Form Drawing ~ (August 16- September 2nd)

We will begin the year exploring and working with vertical and horizontal symmetry and running forms. We will also spend this time “re-forming” as a class, practicing routines and falling into our school rhythms. During this time we will practice the four processes, and our lower case alphabet through the use of new math stories and characters.

Language Arts ~ (September 6th-30th)

We will be focused on reading and writing this block and will review our phonics work from last year, in addition to new habits of letters. The stories of saints and heroes, human beings who step out of their usual daily lives and devote themselves to other human beings, will provide stories. We will study word families, sight words and practice dictation to strengthen our foundation for successful and confident reading.

Mathematics ~ (October 3rd-October 28th)

Place value will be introduced and practiced during this block. We will also learn a new way to recite and memorize our times tables, as well as the geometric patterns that can be developed from each table. We will work with place value the first time and go up to 1,000th place in this block. Native American stories will be told to provide imagination for these concepts.

Language Arts ~ (October 31st-December 2nd)

Reading, writing and poetry will be the focus of this block. We will we listen to Aesop’s and other fables from around the world and begin to practice retelling through summarizing, and writing of our own poetry. In addition we will introduce spelling and practice cursive handwriting through running forms.

Writing ~ (December 4th-16th)

Traditions and writing will be the main activity for this block. We will be writing simple compositions and preparing for the holidays, baking and creating crafts that complement the season. Stories of saints and other holiday traditions will be explored.

Mathematics ~ (January 2nd- 27th)

We will review all previous work and then expand our relationship with place value, hopefully to the millionth place by the end of the block. Our work with the times tables will continue, and carrying and math dictation will be practiced. Native American folk tales will continue to provide stories throughout the block.

Language Arts ~ (January 30th- February 24th)

Writing will be the focus of this block. Students will write short stories and will be inspired by Aesops and other animal fables. Students will strengthen independent reading skills and create their own book to read aloud to younger students. In addition students will be introduced to letter writing through the use of pen pals.

Mathematics ~ (February 23rd- March 9th, and March 19th- March 30th)

Borrowing will be introduced, and the emphasis will be on solving word problems with carrying and borrowing. We will expand our knowledge of multiplication, practicing with 2 and 3 digit multipliers. Students will continue learning Native American animal tales.

Language Arts~ (April 2nd-May 4th)

Word families and their relationship to spelling and reading will, once again be a focus. We will continue working with poetry and compose class and individual poems with a focus on punctuation. Students will be introduced to rough drafts and final forms. The Jataka tales will provide inspiration, and we will begin working on our class play.

Review ~ (May 7th-17th)

We will end the year by reviewing all of our main lesson books from the entire school year. We will bind all of our books into one large volume that shows much of what we learned in 2nd grade. In this book we will include a Table of Contents so students can easily access the blocks they've learned.

Other Subjects:

Form Drawing ~ (2x weekly) we will be doing a lot of form drawing this year as students learn to write more fluidly. We will focus on horizontal and vertical symmetry, and running forms, which will introduce us to cursive handwriting.

Beeswax ~ (1 weekly) African folk stories will be the inspiration for our beeswax modeling this year, including Roger Kipling's Just So stories and many Anansi stories. We will be making many animals and learning about what features distinguish them.

Handwork~ (2x weekly) We will begin the year by making some new, smaller knitting needles and rolling our yarn. We will review knitting in garter stitch, casting on, binding off and techniques for sewing up projects. Students will be introduced to the purl stitch and spinning on a drop spindle. Some of our projects include an owl, hand warmers, and gnomes.

Painting ~ (1 weekly) This year in painting we will continue to use our primary and secondary colors, and students will explore how to successfully mix any color in the color wheel. We will maintain a calm painting environment, as students will begin to explore individual interpretations of a story. Students will further practice how we can talk about paintings in class.

Reading Skills~ (3x weekly) Our reading times hope to nurture a love of books and appreciation of reading in a supportive group. We will begin by reviewing our lowercase letters and sounds through a story about alphabet village. Throughout the year phoneme blends and vowel patterns will be practiced through the use of this story. In addition we will have reading groups twice weekly where students will have the opportunity to practice choral and individual reading in a small group.

Mathematics Skills ~ (2x weekly) We will begin the year by reviewing the four processes and our times tables, we will then move into introducing new times tables and practicing all of our new 2nd grade math themes of place value, carrying, borrowing and double digit multipliers through the use of written practice, hands on activities and games.

Writing ~ (2x weekly) During our writing time we will practice phonetic spelling and be introduced to different types of sentences, and writing for a variety of purposes. Beginning skills of proofreading and editing will be introduced and practiced. We will also practice handwriting, cursive and print and have an author's chair where students practice reading aloud their own piece of writing.

Science and Nature Studies ~ Students will hone their observation skills as we take them outdoors to study nature. We will go on nature walks and study the changes occurring on our trails throughout the year. In addition we will play with simple science experiments.