



Mary of Nazareth Catholic School

A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence



June 2026

Dear Incoming Second Grade Students and Parents,

Welcome to Second Grade! Your teachers collected information about skills and strategies you need to have a successful 2026-2027 school year. The second grade teachers want you to enjoy reading books, learn new facts, have a few laughs, and get curious about the world around you. We have included web links as alternatives to purchasing, or please use your public library to borrow books. Parents, please read with your child and talk about the stories.

1. Read the adorable *The Most Magnificent Thing* by Ashley Spires. This book can be found at the public library, Barnes & Noble (\$19.99), or Amazon (\$11.29). We hope this book becomes a family favorite.
2. The second book that we want you to read is *Thomas Edison: Lighting The Way (Level 2-I Can Read)* by Lori Haskins Houran. This book complements *The Most Magnificent Thing* by connecting the concept of scientific inquiry and perseverance. This book can be found at the public library, Barnes & Noble (\$5.99), or Amazon (\$4.79).
3. Choose your own books, and read stories about topics that interest you. Read every day.
 - For one of your book choices, we want you to **write a summary**. A summary tells what happens in the beginning, middle, and end of the story. The summary will be a paragraph, 3-5 sentences.

In addition to reading books, you must learn and practice the following:

High Frequency/Sight Words. The the list of Kindergarten and 1st Grade **high frequency/sight words** you must be able to **read and spell** is linked here:

- [Kinder HFW](#) and [1st Grade HFW](#)

Prayers: Sign of the Cross, Glory Prayer, Grace Before Meals, Grace After Meals, Hail Mary, The Lord's Prayer, and Angel of God. These prayers are attached for you to read and practice. Teachers will test you during the first weeks/months of second grade to make sure you know these prayers. Also, all students take turns as class prayer leader, so you must know the prayers.

Tie your shoes, independently. Here are links to videos that may help you learn:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jKIB5UCrUrU>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAeI7p-Tkc>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJVR8hHBOyM>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_DiF3IFzOeM

Our goal is to provide you with some interesting activities to keep you reading, and learn essential skills to be ready for second grade. Remember to pray daily, attend Mass, have fun, and play outside!

Have a blessed and peaceful summer!

The Second Grade Team

Suggested Books

**blue highlighted books are highly recommended, but you may need adult help to read them.*

- *The Seven Treasure Hunts*: Betsy Byars (mystery)
- *Get Ready for Second Grade Amber Brown*: Paula Danzinger (funny)
- ***Hachiko: The True Story of A Loyal Dog*: Pamela S. Turner (true story)**
- ***Velma Gratch & the Way Cool Butterfly*: Alan Madison & Kevin Hawkes (realism)**
- *Emperor Penguins*: Roberta Edwards (non-fiction)
- ***It's Disgusting and We Ate It*: James Solheim (True food facts world/history)**
- *Roberto Clemente: Pride of Pittsburgh*: Jonah Winter
- *Mama Played Baseball*: David Adler
- *Cam Jansen & The Mystery of the Babe Ruth Baseball* (mystery)
- *Roger The Jolly Pirate*: Brett Helquist (Fantasy)
- *Painted Dreams*: Karen Lynn Williams (art)
- ***Dogku***: Andrew Clements (making friends and written as a series of Haiku)
- *The Random House book of Poetry for Children* (poetry)
- *Once Upon A Time*: Niki Daly (realism)

Suggested Fun and Creative Activities:

Here are some ideas to help you and your family practice what you learned in first grade, and what you will learn in second grade, read for different purposes, be able to apply math skills in your everyday life, and work on your fine motor skills:

1. Help bake some cookies or cupcakes. Can you measure the ingredients?
2. Try to practice your printing. Write letters and numbers from the top line to the bottom line. One way to begin to practice writing is to make straight and slanted lines and circles touching the top and bottom lines: OOOOO ||||||
////// \\\\\\\\
3. Play store. Use the attached paper coins (or real coins) to buy and sell items such as snacks, cookies, juice boxes, or “rent” your toys to your siblings. Identifying coins, counting money, and making change are math skills which incorporate a number of the skills (addition & subtraction) that have been taught in 1st grade and will be reinforced throughout the upcoming years.
4. Practice addition and subtraction facts: $1+1=2$, etc. You should know your addition facts ‘automatically’ without counting on your fingers. Once you have mastered addition, practice subtraction facts. Make some flashcards to help you practice. Reasonably priced [flashcards](#) to aid practice are available from Amazon.
5. Practice telling time on an analog clock. Start by identifying hours, half hour, and quarter hour. Try to say “after _ :00 or before _ :00
6. Play with clay or playdough (simple [playdough recipes](#) are on the internet). Creating sculptures with clay helps to develop your finger muscles and makes your hands stronger for handwriting.
7. Have a list of daily chores to complete. This list does not need to be long, but it will help the child to develop a routine, create “patterning” connections in the brain, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment – all build self-confidence.
8. Play card games. There are lots of easy to learn card games which help with strategic thinking, planning, and cooperation.
9. Make a comic book – cut out, draw, or print pictures and write stories to go with your pictures. You can make flip books, “shoe-box” tvs, your own “newspaper,” and so on.

Of course, READ, READ, READ! Find all kinds of books, articles, and texts to practice reading skills. “*Oh, the Places You Will Go*” with books...

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord's Prayer (Our Father)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen

Glory Prayer

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Angel of God

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day, be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen

Grace Before Meals

Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts, which we are about to receive from thy bounty, through Christ, our Lord. Amen

Grace After Meals

We give You thanks, almighty God, for these and all Your blessing which we have received from thy bounty, through Christ, our Lord. Amen







United States, Presidential \$1, and Quarter-dollar coin images from the United States Mint. - STEMsheets.com