A Parent’s Guide to 2nd Grade Mathematics

Compiled by Teachers at East Hill Elementary School
Dear Parents,

This guide is intended to better acquaint you with the NYS Common Core Learning Standards for 2nd Grade Mathematics. It has been compiled from several different sources.

Included in this guide is an overview of the Common Core Learning Standards for 2nd grade, a glossary compiled by Michele Gipe, West Genesee math coach, that contains many of the newer terms to which students are being exposed, information from “A Parent’s Backpack Guide to the Common Core” from EngageNY.org, a sampling of strategies that students use in second grade for various concepts from a variety of sources, information from, “Parent Roadmap: Supporting Your Child in Grade Two Mathematics,” and websites for both parents and students.

We will continue to update and revise these guides as we continue along our journey in the implementation of the Common Core. If you have any suggestions for things to include in this guide, please send an email to lcraig@westgenesee.org. I hope you find this guide helpful. Thank you!

Lisa Craig
East Hill Elementary Principal
Elementary Math Coordinator
The way we taught students in the past simply does not prepare them for the higher demands of college and careers today and in the future. Your school and schools throughout the country are working to improve teaching and learning to ensure that all children will graduate high school with the skills they need to be successful.

In mathematics, this means three major changes. Teachers will concentrate on teaching a more focused set of major math concepts and skills. This will allow students time to master important ideas and skills in a more organized way throughout the year and from one grade to the next. It will also call for teachers to use rich and challenging math content and to engage students in solving real-world problems in order to inspire greater interest in mathematics.

Taken from Parent Roadmap: Supporting Your Child in Grade Two Mathematics
In Grade 2, instructional time should focus on four critical areas: (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.

1. Students extend their understanding of the base-ten system. This includes ideas of counting in fives, tens, and multiples of hundreds, tens, and ones, as well as number relationships involving these units, including comparing. Students understand multi-digit numbers (up to 1000) written in base-ten notation, recognizing that the digits in each place represent amounts of thousands, hundreds, tens, or ones (e.g., 853 is 8 hundreds + 5 tens + 3 ones).

2. Students use their understanding of addition to develop fluency with addition and subtraction within 100. They solve problems within 1000 by applying their understanding of models for addition and subtraction, and they develop, discuss, and use efficient, accurate, and generalizable methods to compute sums and differences of whole numbers in base-ten notation, using their understanding of place value and the properties of operations. They select and accurately apply methods that are appropriate for the context and the numbers involved to mentally calculate sums and differences for numbers with only tens or only hundreds.

3. Students recognize the need for standard units of measure (centimeter and inch) and they use rulers and other measurement tools with the understanding that linear measure involves an iteration of units. They recognize that the smaller the unit, the more iterations they need to cover a given length.

4. Students describe and analyze shapes by examining their sides and angles. Students investigate, describe, and reason about decomposing and combining shapes to make other shapes. Through building, drawing, and analyzing two- and three-dimensional shapes, students develop a foundation for understanding area, volume, congruence, similarity, and symmetry in later grades.

An Overview of 2nd Grade Math

Mathematical Practices

These eight practices are the goals of all math education, K-12

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.
Big Ideas in Grade 2

Operations and Algebraic Thinking
• Represent and solve problems involving addition and subtraction.
• Add and subtract within 20.
• Work with equal groups of objects to gain foundations for multiplication.

Number and Operations in Base Ten
• Understand place value.
• Use place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract.

Measurement and Data
• Measure and estimate lengths in standard units.
• Relate addition and subtraction to length.
• Work with time and money.
• Represent and interpret data.

Geometry
• Reason with shapes and their attributes.

What is Changing in Mathematics Education

The information below was taken from the “Parent’s Backpack Guide to Common Core State Standards” found on engageny.org.

To improve student learning, the new Common Core State Standards are different from the old ones. These changes are called shifts. The chart below shows what is shifting, what you might see in your child’s backpack and what you can do to help your child. Again, if your child’s assignments do not reflect the shifts, then talk to your child’s teacher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What’s Shifting?</th>
<th>What to Look for in the Backpack?</th>
<th>What Can You Do?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your child will work more deeply in fewer topics, which will ensure full understanding. (less is more!)</td>
<td>Look for assignments that require students to show their work and explain how they arrived at an answer.</td>
<td>Know what concepts are important for your child based on their grade level and spend time working on those concepts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your child will keep building on learning year after year, starting with a strong foundation.</td>
<td>Look for assignments that build on one another. For example, students will focus on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. Once these areas are mastered, they will focus on fractions. Building on that, they will then focus on Algebra. You should be able to see the progression in the topics they learn.</td>
<td>Be aware of what concepts your child struggled with last year and support your child in those challenge areas moving forward.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your child will spend time practicing and memorizing math facts.</td>
<td>Look for assignments that ask your child to master math facts such as addition groupings up to 20 or multiplication tables.</td>
<td>Help your child know and memorize basic math facts. Ask your child to “do the math” that pops up in daily life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your child will understand why the math works and be asked to talk about and prove their understanding.</td>
<td>Your child might have assignments that ask her or him to show or explain their mathematical thinking - to SAY why they think their answer is the right one.</td>
<td>Talk to your child about their math homework and ask them to teach you new concepts. Help them figure out ways to explain their thinking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your child will now be asked to use math in real-world situations.</td>
<td>Look for math assignments that are based on the real world. For instance, homework for 6th graders might include adding fractions as part of a dessert recipe or determining how much pizza friends ate based on fractions.</td>
<td>Provide time every day for your child to work on math at home.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In grade two, students will extend their understanding of place value to the hundreds place. They will use this place value understanding to solve word problems, including those involving length and other units of measure. Students will continue to work on their addition and subtraction skills, quickly and accurately adding and subtracting numbers up through 20 and also working with numbers up through 100. They will also build a foundation for understanding fractions by working with shapes and geometry. Activities in these areas will include: quickly and accurately adding numbers together that total up to 20 or less or subtracting from numbers up through 20; solving one- or two-step word problems by adding or subtracting numbers up through 100; understanding what the different digits mean in a three-digit number; adding and subtracting three digit numbers; measuring lengths of objects in standard units such as inches and centimeters; solving addition and subtraction word problems involving length; solving problems involving money; breaking up a rectangle into same-size squares; dividing circles and rectangles into halves, thirds, or fourths; solving addition, subtraction, and comparison word problems using information presented in a bar graph writing equations to represent addition of equal numbers.

Here are just a few examples of the skills and strategies students will develop as they solve word problems in grade two.

Students in grade two will use diagrams such as this one to think through and solve one- and two-step word problems.
Partnering with your Child’s Teacher  
(taken from Parent Roadmap)

Don’t be afraid to reach out to your child’s teacher—you are an important part of your child’s education. Ask to see a sample of your child’s work or bring a sample with you. Ask the teacher questions like:

• Is my child at the level where he/she should be at this point of the school year?
• Where is my child excelling? How can I support this success?
• What do you think is giving my child the most trouble? How can I help my child improve in this area?
• What can I do to help my child with upcoming work?

Here are just a few examples of how students will develop and use their understanding of place value in grade two.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade One Mathematics</th>
<th>Grade Two Mathematics</th>
<th>Grade Three Mathematics</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Understand that 10 can be thought of as a bundle of ten ones—called a “ten”</td>
<td>Understand that 100 can be thought of as a bundle of ten tens—called a “hundred”</td>
<td>Use place value understanding to round whole numbers to the nearest 10 or 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understand that the two digits of a two-digit number represent amounts of tens and ones (place value)</td>
<td>Understand that the three digits of a three-digit number represent amounts of hundreds, tens, and ones (place value)</td>
<td>Quickly and accurately add and subtract numbers through 1000</td>
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<td>Add and subtract numbers through 100 using what students have learned about place value</td>
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<td>Use place value understanding to multiply and divide numbers up through 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students learn that 250 = 2 hundreds and 5 tens, 25 tens, or 250 ones.</td>
<td>Students apply their understanding that 5 tens + 5 tens = 10 tens, or 1 hundred, that can then be added to the hundreds place.</td>
<td>Multiply one-digit whole numbers by multiples of 10 between 10 and 90. For example, 9×80 or 5×60</td>
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250 = 2 + 5 + 0

250 + 253 = 503
**Glossary for 2nd Grade Math**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tens Frame</th>
<th>A 2x5 grid used for combinations to 10 and adding and subtracting within 20</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number Bond</td>
<td>A representation of two smaller parts that make up a whole. For example, 6 is made up of 0 and 6 or 6 is made up of 1 and 5.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number Path</td>
<td>Foundation for understanding a number line—1 number, 1 space. Counting and matching numbers and objects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part-Part Total Part-Part Whole</td>
<td>A way to show the two smaller parts that make up a whole (similar to a number bond, different visual representation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partial Sums</td>
<td>A way to add numbers by adding each place and combining</td>
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- **Partial Sums Example:**
  
  \[(20 + 30) + (4 + 3) = 57\]
### Tape Diagram
The tape diagram provides an essential bridge to algebra and is often called “pictoral algebra.” They are pictoral representations of relationships between quantities used to solve word problems.

![Tape Diagram Image]

Rachel collected 58 seashells. Sam gave her 175 more. How many seashells did she have then?

### Partial Differences
A way to subtract multi-digit numbers by their value.

34 - 17 = 34 - 10 = 24
24 - 7 = 17

Break up the 17 into 10 and 7. Begin with the 34 and subtract the 10 and then the 7.

### Number Line
The number line is used to develop a deeper understanding of whole number units, starting at any point, to add or subtract.

![Number Line Image]

### Decompose
Breaking a number down into smaller parts

### Place Value Sketch
A way to represent an addition or subtraction problem using a sketch of place.
Stages of Addition
(taken & adapted from Why Before How: Singapore Math Computation Strategies by Jana Hazekamp)

It is important to encourage your students to use a variety of computation strategies. Guide your students to notice what is the same and different about these methods. Begin with the concrete, move on to pictorial representations, and with the abstract. You can do this by teaching the concept of addition in the following sequence: 1) Number bonds, 2) Decomposing numbers, 3) Left-to-right addition, 4) Place value disks and charts, 5) Vertical addition, and 6) Traditional addition.

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Stages of Subtraction

(taken & adapted from Why Before How: Singapore Math Computation Strategies by Jana Hazekamp & Foundations of Number Sense by SDE-Staff Development for Educators)

It is important to help our students understand the concept of subtraction first, before bombarding them with abstract rules. Students can build an understanding of subtraction by sharing stories in which they have subtracted. They need to begin with the concrete, move on to pictorial representation.

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Addition and Subtraction Strategies (taken from KATM Flip Book for Grade 2)

Addition Examples:

There are 178 fourth graders and 225 fifth graders on the playground. What is the total number of students on the playground?

Student 1
100 + 200 = 300
70 + 20 = 90
8 + 5 = 13
300 + 90 + 13 =
403 students

Student 2
I added 2 to 178 to get 180. I added 220 to get 400. I added the 3 left over to get 403.

Student 3
I know the 75 plus 25 equals 100. I then added
1 hundred from 178 and
2 hundreds from 275. I had a total of 4 hundreds and I had 3 more left to add. So I have 4 hundreds plus 3 more which is 403.

Student 4
178+225=?
178+200=378
378+20+398
398+5=403

Addition strategies based on place value for 48 + 37 may include:
- Adding by place value: 40 + 30 = 70 and 8 + 7 = 15 and 70 + 15 = 85.
- Incremental adding (breaking one number into tens and ones); 48 + 10 = 58, 58 + 10 = 68, 68 + 10 = 78, 78 + 7 = 85
- Compensation (making a friendly number): 48 + 2 = 50, 37 – 2 = 35, 50 + 35 = 85

Subtraction strategies based on place value for 81 - 37 may include:
- Adding up (from smaller number to larger number): 37 + 3 = 40, 40 + 40 = 80, 80 + 1 = 81, and 3 + 40 + 1 = 44.
- Subtracting by place value: 81 – 30 = 51, 51 – 7 = 44

Properties that students should know and use are:
- Commutative property of addition (Example: 3 + 5 = 5 + 3)
- Associative property of addition (Example: (2 + 7) + 3 = 2 + (7+3)
- Identity property of 0 (Example: 8 + 0 = 8)

The next three and a half pages were taken from the East Irondequoit website. They include a variety of addition and subtraction strategies that are first introduced to students in K-2 with smaller numbers, and are then extended into the upper elementary grades with bigger numbers. The “traditional” algorithm for addition and subtraction are introduced in 4th grade. We no longer use the terms borrowing and carrying, we actually haven’t used them for years. The proper term is regrouping.
Strategies for Addition

1. **Breaking Apart** (Place Value), also known as “Separating” or “Decomposing”

   Break both numbers down to place value and add each, starting with the largest:

   $46 + 25 =

   46 breaks into 40 plus 6 (40 + 6), 25 breaks into 20 plus 5 (20 + 5)

   $40 + 20 = 60$

   $6 + 5 = 11$

   $60 + 11 = 71$

   Or:

   Keep one number intact and only break second number down by place value and adding each place:

   $46 + 25 =

   46 stays intact and 25 breaks into 20 and 5

   $46 + 20 = 66$

   $66 + 5 = 71$ or $66 + (4 + 1)$

   *Note: some students may prefer to break the 5 apart (4 + 1) so that they can add 4 to 66 and get 70, then add on 1. It would only make sense to break down the ones to get to the “landmark” number 10.

2. **Compensation:**

   Round one or more of the numbers to numbers that are easier to work with, then compensate:

   $256 + 687$

   $256 + 700 = 956$

   $956 - 13 =$

   (decompose 13)

   $956 - 10 = 946$

   $946 - 3 = 943$

   13 is added to 687 to get 700, an easier number to work with - keeping track of the adjustment is critical to making this strategy work, encourage students to box the adjustment (here we box the adjustment as -13 since 13 was added, now 13 must be subtracted out of the computation to get the final answer.
3. Transformation:
Transform the problem into an equivalent problem that is easier: (like compensation, this is a strategy more advanced math thinkers can handle, you’re adding to one and taking away the same amount from the other)

a. 46 + 28 = ___
   - adding 2 to 28 makes it 30, an easy number to work with, but if 2 is added into this equation, then 2 must be subtracted from the 46.
   - 28 + 2 = 30
   - 46 – 2 = 44
   - 30 + 44 = 74
b. 256 + 687 =
   - add 13 to 687 to make it 700, subtract 13 from 256 to make it 243, 700 + 243 = 943

More Subtraction Strategies (taken from East Irondequoit website)

1 Breaking Apart/Separating:
Subtract one number in parts from the other number which stays intact, always starting with largest place value to subtract.

a. 54 – 23 =
   - 23 can be broken into 20 + 3
   - 54 – 20 = 34
   - 34 – 3 = 31
or
   - 56 – 29 =
   - 29 can be broken into 20 + 6 + 3, breaking 9 into 6 + 3 makes it easier to subtract
   - 56 – 20 = 36
   - 36 – 6 = 30
   - 30 – 3 = 27

b. 547 – 297 =
   - keep 547 intact, break 297 into 200 + 90 + 7, subtract out one place value at a time
   - 547 – 200 = 347
   - 347 – 90 = 257
   - 257 – 7 = 250
or
   - 547 – 297 = _______, break 297 into 247 + 50, subtract out each part
   - 547 – 247 = 300, 300 – 50 = 250
2. Adding Up/Counting On:
Start with smaller number, add up to a landmark number*, from the landmark add up to get to the target number. Add the two numbers you used.

\[
\begin{align*}
212 - 197 &= \\
197 + 3 &= 200^* \\
200 + 12 &= 212 \\
3 + 12 &= 15
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
516 - 305 &= \\
305 + 195 &= 500^* \\
500 + 16 &= 516 \\
195 + 16 &= 211 \quad (195 + 10 = 205, 205 + 6 = 211)
\end{align*}
\]

3. Subtracting across the zeros:
Adding up is a good strategy when one of the subtrahends involves 0's. Students have a great deal of difficulty subtracting across the zeros.

\[
\begin{align*}
$10.00 - $4.75 &= \\
\text{Think: } $4.75 + $.25 &= $5.00 \\
$5.00 + $5.00 &= $10.00 \\
$5.00 + $.25 &= $5.25
\end{align*}
\]

4. Subtracting from 9's:
Given 1,000 – 273:
(subtract 1 from 1,000 making it 999 – subtracting from 9's doesn't require any regrouping)

\[
\begin{align*}
999 +1 & \quad \text{box the adjustment to remember to add it back in} \\
\underline{-273} & \quad \text{now add back the 1, the answer is 727}
\end{align*}
\]

Given 1006 – 273:
(subtract 7 from 1006 making it 999,

\[
\begin{align*}
999 +7 & \quad \underline{-273} \\
726 +7 & \quad \text{now add back the 7 making the answer 733}
\end{align*}
\]
3. Transformation
Transform the entire problem to an equivalent problem that is easier to solve by adding or subtracting the same number from/to both numbers in the subtraction problem. (Using the same number maintains the difference between the two numbers.) The goal of adding or subtracting a number is to make one or more of the numbers easier to work with.

\[ 547 - 297 = \]
add 3 to both numbers to bring 297 to 300 and 547 to 550, now 300 is an easier number to subtract from 550

\[ 550 - 300 = 250 \]

4. Compensation:
Adjust one of the numbers in a math problem in order to make them easier to work with.

a. \[ 45 - 27 = \]
\[ 27 \quad \underline{+2} = 29 \]
\[ 45 - 29 = 16 \]
\[ 20 \quad \underline{-2} = 18 \]
You ignored 2 out of the 27 so you need to subtract 2 out of the answer.

b. \[ 45 - 27 = \]
\[ 45 + 2 = 47 \]
\[ 47 - 27 = 20 \]
\[ 20 - 2 = 18 \]
You added 2 to 45 so you need to subtract 2 out of the answer.

Open or Numberless Number Line (A strategy for addition or subtraction.)

There are several ways to use an open number line for both addition and subtraction.

For more information on the standards in mathematics related to place value (Number and Operations in Base Ten) or fractions, go to http://commoncoretools.me/category/progressions/.

For more information on helping your child learn mathematics (with activities from pre-school to grade five), go to http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/math/index.html.


**Additional websites:**

www.EngageNY.org
illuminations.nctm.org
http://www.pbs.org/parents/earlymath/

**Websites for Parents**

**Websites for 2nd Graders**

www.xtramath.org
www.multiplication.com/games
www.ictgames.com/
www.eduplace.com/math/mthexp
http://www.aplusmath.com/
http://www.aaatmath.com/
http://mathforum.org/dr.math/
http://www.coolmath4kids.com/
http://www.funbrain.com/
http://www.mathstories.com/
http://www.teachrkids.com/
http://www.mathplayground.com/wordproblems.html
Teacher Recommended Free Apps for 2nd Graders

FlashToPass Free Math Flash Cards
Sushi Monster
2nd Grade Math: Splash Math Worksheets Game for kids Lite
Numbers, Addition and Subtraction!
Math Facts Flashcards- Fun Mathematics Flashcards

Teacher Recommended Apps (Under $3.00) for 2nd Graders

AB Math $1.99
2nd Grade Math Common Core – Addition, Subtraction, Shapes, Time… $2.99
Math Bingo $0.99
TeachMe: 2nd Grade $1.99

Resources Used in this Publication

East Irondequoit, NY CSD, www.eastiron.org, Parent Center Link on Left
EngageNY, www.engageny.org
Hudsonville, MI CSD Parent Presentation, www.hudsonville.k12.mi.us
New York State Education Department, Common Core Learning Standards for Mathematics, K-12