



SECOND GRADE

Classroom Overview

❖ General Information:

- Rancho Santa Margarita Christian School (RSMCS) Second Graders begin each day with pledges, prayers, and worship. Homeroom teachers instruct the students on the core subjects of math, science, language arts, social science, and Bible. The enrichment subjects of physical education, technology, music, Spanish, art, and library are taught by teachers who specialize in those areas. All subjects are taught to meet or exceed California State Standards. RSMCS is fully accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). All teachers are Christians and have valid teaching credentials.

Spiritual & Social

❖ Bible:

- 30 minutes, 4 days per week
- Emphasis on studying Christian character traits demonstrated by the lives of Bible characters and how they apply to their daily life.
- Emphasis is on the Gospels. Students are introduced to a multimedia Bible timeline that continues through sixth grade. As new events are introduced, they are added to the timeline so lessons continually connect current and past learning.
- Emphasis on the Bible as God's word and the source for truth, God's plan, and the guideline for wise and righteous living. Students memorize and recite weekly Bible verses. Students learn Bible study skills as well as Biblical truths and principles.
- Textbook: *Deep Roots*
- Service Opportunity: Local community beautification project and ministry of notes and cards of encouragement.

❖ Chapel:

- Chapel each week with worship and message

❖ Social:

- Emphasis on Christian character development and Biblical conflict resolution. Different character traits are highlighted throughout the year and across the curriculum. Students are encouraged to incorporate this character trait into their daily lives and acknowledge it in others. Older students meet with younger students in Prayer Partners, a program to encourage mentoring relationships and habits of prayer.
- Focus on further developing students' independent study habits, beginning organizational skills, as well as instilling academic and social responsibilities that will serve students throughout their school years and beyond.

Academic

❖ Mathematics:

- 30-45 minutes, 5 days per week
- Math engages students in hands-on learning, practice, and critical thinking. Some of the math concepts covered include higher place value, regrouping, fractions, time, money, and introductory multiplication and division.
- Educational Technology to enhance learning such as IXL, MobyMax, and Prodigy.
- Special Activities: STEM, STEAM and PBL (project-based learning) projects
- Textbook: *My Math 2* (McGraw Hill)

❖ Language Arts & Reading:

- 120 minutes, 5 days per week
- Second grade students experience a comprehensive language program which incorporates enjoyable and meaningful children's literature to build students' spelling, phonics, listening/speaking, and reading and writing strategies and skills.
- Educational technology to enhance learning such as IXL, MobyMax, and Vocabulary City.
- Special Activities: ACSI Spelling Bee and Speech Meet, differentiated book reports and cross-curricular units and activities.
- Textbooks: *Reading Street 2*-reading, spelling and grammar, Second Grade Language Domain Bundles, *Spelling'Phonics* (BJU Press and Reading Street 2), *Write Reflections* writing program

❖ Science & Health:

- 30 minutes, 3 days per week minimum
- Science involves students in exploratory learning activities such as STEAM, STEM, and project-based learning with lessons covering a wide variety of areas such as vertebrates/invertebrates, animal habitats, plants, energy, weather, space, and geology.
- Textbook: *Science ACSI*, *Scholastic News*, and teacher-created units
- Special Activities: STEM and STEAM, PBL, and Scientific Exploration projects
- Field Trips: Farm and Food Lab, Nature Reserve Rancho Mission Viejo, Backyard Bees.

❖ Social Studies:

- 30 minutes, 3 days per week minimum
- In Social Studies, students focus on patriotism – love of God and country and responsible citizenship. Second grade Social Studies encourages young learners to think outside the box and to prove their thinking through hands-on and engaging learning experiences. Study is based on five units: Government and Democracy, Historical Thinking, Geography, Cultures, and Economics.
- Special Activities: Hands-on project-based learning, cultural and historical challenge activities.
- Textbooks: Second Grade Social Studies Curriculum Bundles, *Scholastic News*, and teacher-created units
- Field Trips: The Kellogg House Heritage Museum, Orange County Museum of Art

Enrichment

❖ Physical Education:

- Two days per week students participate in a variety of cardiovascular and strength building exercises. Throughout the year students play a variety of games and activities to encourage coordination and movement, as well as good sportsmanship. In addition, fitness testing is conducted at the beginning and end of the school year.

Enrichment Continued

❖ **Music:**

- Emphasis on choral singing, breathing, vocal exercises and rhythm. A basic understanding of the fundamentals of music will be taught. The students will learn the value of worship as a part of their daily lives. The students will learn and perform many songs throughout the year and will become more comfortable with how to use their voices as well as incorporating movement when possible.
- Special Activities: Perform at Grandparents Day, Christmas Chapel, and various other venues during the school year. There are two auditioned annual musical productions.

❖ **Spanish:**

- 30 minutes, 1 day per week
- All RSMCS students in Kindergarten through sixth grade gain a greater appreciation for the language and culture of the Spanish-speaking world.
- Emphasis on teaching students a yearly theme, including how to say the alphabet, colors, numbers, days of the week, months of the year, words related to the family, animals, food, school, Bible verses and prayers, as well as basic commands and phrases. Students are taught songs in Spanish that reinforce their learning.

❖ **Art:**

- A hands-on program that introduces students to the great artists and their work. Students engage in creative expression by painting their own masterpieces using the techniques of the masters.

❖ **Library:**

- Emphasis on developing basic library research skills and on teaching students how to use the library as a resource to find age-appropriate books that match their interests for pleasure reading.

❖ **Technology:**

- All RSM Christian School students in Kindergarten through second grade engage in hands-on learning instruction from the classroom teacher as well as educational testing and assessments on an iPad through our one-to-one technology initiative. Emphasis for second grade is on becoming comfortable with using technology. Students integrate technology with a variety of themes and subject matter.
- Applications used: IXL, Prodigy Math, MAP by NWEA, Freckle, Vocabulary A-Z, Bible for Kids, Greatest Journey, Seesaw