



Preparing for Grade Two What Students Need to Know and Do

Calgary Classical Academy

As students prepare for Grade Two at Calgary Classical Academy, parents and teachers should work with them to master the following skills. We do not expect students to have mastered all of these skills and will continue to work on them in school during their Grade Two year. The intention of this document is to provide an approximate developmental level to guide parents and teachers as they prepare for their children to begin in our classes.

Personal and Study Skills

Students should be able to:

- Use the bathroom independently, including remembering to wash their hands;
- Use words like “please” and “thank you” when speaking with adults and peers;
- Line up and move silently through a hallway for short periods;
- Raise their hand to speak during whole-class discussions and lessons;
- Use self-calming strategies to help themselves cool down when they are upset;
- Tie their own shoelaces, zip up their jackets, and snowpants independently; and,
 - o Note: If students cannot do this, then parents should send them to school with Velcro shoes.
- Sit at desks or on the carpet peacefully for 10-20 minutes.

Reading & Writing

Students should be able to:

- Sing or recite the alphabet;
- Identify all basic letter sounds;
- Decode one-syllable words featuring simple phonic patterns (e.g., cat);
- Write their own name;
- Recognize and write all the letters in the alphabet using printing;
- Hold a pencil;
- Write simple sentences (5-7 words) using invented spelling, heart words (e.g., said), and some basic phonics patterns.

Resources:

To support students' reading and writing skills, we use the *UFLI Foundations* phonics curriculum developed by the University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI), which is available for free online. Though it may vary somewhat based on September assessments, we normally begin our work with UFLI starting at Lesson 38a, which reviews short vowel sounds. A good way to prepare your children for Grade Two is to ensure they can read through the decodable stories from Lessons 8-34, which introduce and help students practice the basic letter sounds.

These stories may be downloaded and printed from [this webpage](#). We recommend that students be able to read through each of these stories independently before they begin Grade Two. You can help your child sound out the words as they develop increasing independence, and once they are able to read each story smoothly and confidently, they can illustrate the story in the box above.

Mathematics

Students should be able to:

- Write all digits correctly;
- Count to 100 by 1s, 2s, 5s, and 10s;
- Identify place value up to the tens place (e.g., knowing the 2 in 24 means 20);
- Put numbers up to 100 in order (e.g., knowing $84 > 48$);
- Use ordinal numbers in everyday speech (e.g., first, second, third);
- Add and subtract numbers up to 10 from memory;
- Identify basic patterns (e.g., *abab, abcabc*);
- Identify basic shapes (i.e., square, rectangle, triangle, circle, oval, hexagon);
- Order items by length and weight;
- Recognize halves and fourths;
- Recognize basic units of Canadian currency;
- Know all of the days of the week and months of the year; and,
- Tell time to the nearest hour on an analogue clock.



Resources:

At CCA, we use the Singapore Math curriculum, which is a research-based program that enables us to meet and surpass the requirements of the Alberta Program of Studies.

Incoming families may wish to purchase and have their children work through the Grade One Singapore Math workbooks, which are available [here](#) and [here](#). We recommend students review the 1A and 1B resources. The entire scope and sequence for Singapore Math for Kindergarten to Grade 5 can be found [here](#).

Singapore online lectures can be accessed for those who would like extra help for their children. You can access them by following the instructions below (please keep this information within the CCA community):

<https://vimeo.com/>

Login: Colleen.parks@classicalacademy.ca

Password: CCA2022!

Once in go to <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/purchases> to view grade 1

Tutoring or support in Math?

<https://www.seriouslyaddictivemaths.ca/eng/pages/home>

<https://calgarybrightminds.com/programs/>

To review the entire scope and sequence for Singapore Math for Kindergarten to Grade 5 please review the following:

https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0603/7487/6349/files/Scope_1.pdf?v=1635780325

Families should also practice addition and subtraction facts over the summer using flash cards. By the beginning of Grade Two, students should be able to recite addition and subtraction facts from 1 to 10 (e.g., $4 + 7 = 11$ and $9 - 4 = 5$) from memory.

History and Geography

Students should be able to:

- Identify their country, province, and city on a map;
- Identify the continents and major oceans on a map;
- Recall selected facts and stories from the following Ancient Civilizations;
 - o Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Meso-America (Aztecs, Inca)



Science

Students should be able to:

- Describe attributes of matter (e.g., soft, fuzzy, hard) and types of movement (e.g., direct, curved);
- Explain the behaviour and habitats of selected plant and animals and describe their life cycles (e.g., butterflies); and,
- Demonstrate interest and curiosity about a range of scientific topics.

Fine Arts

Students should be able to:

- Wait patiently and follow multi-step directions;
- Cut paper on a straight line;
- Colour without scribbling;
- Demonstrate attention and care when working with paint, glue, etc.

Digital Detox

CCA is a smart phone free environment, and the use of technology is limited, and purposeful at every grade level. There is substantial evidence that technology is causing great harm to our children. Please consider a digital detox for your family over the summer months to help prepare them for school. Here are some readings and resources that will help you:

[How a Digital Detox Could Improve Your Child's Behavior Problems](#)

[Digital Detox: How to Limit Screen Time for Kids](#)

[Digital Detox: The Two-Week Tech Reset for Kids by Molly DeFrank](#)

We hope you find the above information useful. We look forward to the upcoming school year!

Welcome to the CCA family! Thank you for trusting us with your child's education.

Best Regards,

The Grade Two Teachers
Colleen Parks, Principal Educator