Library
During the first half of the school year, second grade students learn and think about the structure of the library space and the structure of the library's organizational system. Second graders begin using different strategies and tools, such as shelf markers, to help them become more independent library users. Library class time is also used to expand on classroom studies, including work on realistic fiction. Students read and discuss realistic fiction picture books and explore what distinguishes a realistic fiction story from other genres of fiction.

Literacy
This semester Grade 2 students will explore various structures in literature through in-depth Nonfiction and Poetry studies. Read alouds and independent reading of both fiction and nonfiction texts will provide opportunity for students to ask thoughtful questions and make deeper connections. Students will participate in guided exploration of the sound structure of words and sentences, which will enhance their reading fluency and their writing. They will then transfer this knowledge to their independent reading and to writing in other contexts.

Mathematics
Classroom learning experiences will give children the opportunity to continue building their repertoire of strategies for addition and subtraction. Students will develop number relationships with an emphasis on computing accurately, flexibly, and efficiently in a variety of contexts to deepen their understanding of place value and patterns in our number system. Students will also be making connections between disciplines as they explore attributes of different geometric shapes. Through these explorations they will be developing their math vocabulary as they investigate the similarities and differences between them. As they progress throughout the year students will be engaging in both individual and collaborative work focused on creating meaning around the mathematics in their lives.

Performing Arts: Dance
Dance class is tightly woven into the second grade curriculum. The children have various creative movement opportunities based on picture books, poetry, nature and their own imaginations. They greatly enjoy finding and creating structure through movement. Alongside all of this challenging work, dance technique skills are introduced and developed through the warm-up, stretch, and traveling sequences that are a part of every class. Each child's social and emotional growth is nurtured by working in small groups and partnerships, sharing dances, playing the role of a good audience member, respecting each other, oneself and the studio, as well as being consistent, cooperative and enthusiastic participants in class.

Performing Arts: Music
Music in second grade is an exciting time for students to learn through singing and moving. Second grade students are learning rhythms, rhythmic notation (including quarter notes and eighth notes) and a varied repertoire of songs (including singing lyrics, solfege, and note names from the staff). Second grade students will be studying the structure of a song (AB and Rondo form) as well as the structure of an Orchestra.
(including instrument families and where each instrument sits in an orchestra). Second grade students will continue to compose music, sing perform on instruments and express themselves through music and movement.

Science
In second grade children learn scientific skills and develop scientific attitudes through a study of organisms and their habitats. At the start of the semester students visit Black Rock Forest to research and experience the forest habitat, then draw comparisons to city environs back at home. We then focus in on the world of birds, and students learn to be close observers, ask questions, and use their observations to develop scientific ideas. Student scientists study nests, beak adaptations, and bird behavior. A special treat will be learning about birds of prey to strengthen an understanding of food chains. An important focus of second grade is communicating ideas; throughout the unit each student maintains a scientific folder where ideas, observations, scientific thinking, and questions are recorded.

Social Emotional Learning
In the first half of second grade, social emotional learning skills are integrated into the study Community. Children learn how people express their identities and their feelings, and begin to appreciate the many ways in which diversity strengthens a group. They also become aware that people can express the same feelings in different ways, and that others may have perspectives that differ from their own. Working in the whole class and in small groups, children develop empathy and learn to resolve conflict through negotiation and compromise. They learn to express strong feelings so that others can hear them, and to listen to others as well. They are increasingly independent in completing their work, and they take responsibility for their actions so that the community can function effectively. Finally, as part of their understanding of community, children develop an understanding of bullying and bystander behavior, and learn how to be an ally, standing up for themselves and for others.

Social Studies
Grade 2 has a year-long theme of Community and focuses on the concepts of Structure and Expression. Students come well prepared for the emphasis on independent and cooperative learning opportunities. We begin with activities to build a grade level community filled with the collective strengths of the children. Students see that they are each unique and together complete. They investigate how physical and organizational structures help the members of a community grow and prosper. They examine the ways families, The School, and other communities express their affiliation, and how these communities meet the needs of each member and help to make the groups within successful.

Spanish Language/Literacy
This semester in Spanish students will connect our study of Structure to the concept of structure in the classroom, school and people at school. They will learn key vocabulary to be able to communicate and interact with their peers and understand their surroundings in Spanish. We will explore the theme of Community by getting to know each other, making connections with the people in the classroom, the teachers and then other people in the school. We will compare some elements of culture differences and commonalities with each other and the Spanish-speaking people working at the school. As part of our study, we will study Spanish-speaking countries in The Caribbean. Students will identify the differences and similarities between these countries and have a deeper understanding of what Hispanic culture in New York City looks like, feel like, taste like and sound like. Students will use the four essential language-learning skills, listening, speaking, reading and writing, in order to expand their vocabulary and grammar skills. Specific vocabulary units will pertain to physical and personality traits, objects in the classroom, places in school and the Caribbean, food and expressions.
**Technology**
In Grade 2, students are learning Design Thinking, the process by which designers, engineers and scientist problem-solve. With a focus on arts, crafts, carpentry and engineering, students will be introduced to the concept of “Making” and the Do-It-Yourself (DIY) and Do-It-With-Others (DIWO) culture. Students will collaborate to design, create a prototype and final iteration of a selected product. Skills sets that promote collaboration, decision-making, and self-directed learning will be reinforced.

**Visual Arts**
In the art studio this fall, as part of the first semester unit theme of "structure", the students will begin with a painting exploration. They will explore color mixing and the expressive qualities of paint by making a wide range of colors with a limited palette of red, yellow, blue and white. Using this exploratory experience, each child will make a collage with complementary colors of their choice. We will discuss how the color wheel is organized and how that structure can help an artist create a composition. While studying works by professional artists such as Alexander Calder, Louise Nevelson, and Isamu Noguchi, in school and at the Storm King Art Center, students will connect their experiences in the studio to the larger environment. We will then begin to create three-dimensional constructions using a variety of materials. In addition, students will continue to develop their creative problem-solving skills and ability to work successfully in a collaborative space.

**Wellness**
During the first semester of Wellness, students focus on important developmental physical skills while connecting to the theme of community and concept of structure. We began this year by working on sportsmanship and teamwork through the use of cooperative games. Following cooperative games, the students dive into a study of the human body. The students work on their understanding of how the skeletal and muscular system are structured and their interconnections with one another. We also study the structure of the brain and how it can help us be better movers and learners. We incorporate fitness activities and a nutrition study on My Plate. Following the human body unit, the students work on their climbing skills on the bouldering wall.