

Jefferson County Educational Service Center Virtual Learning Academy

An Addendum to Regular Teacher Training

Required Reading for Second Grade VLA Teachers

The JCESC VLA curriculum for Second Grade students has been customized to meet the needs of young students as required by the Ohio Academic Content Standards. This curriculum has four components: content and assessment presented to the student via the computer; an Adult Mentor who will work directly with the student on site to assist the student; a kit for Language Arts and Math containing hands-on materials needed for units; and a student-written portfolio.

As a Second Grade VLA Teacher, you need to be aware of each of the components. They are discussed below.

Content and Assessment Presented to the Student via the Computer

Both Content and Assessment are similar to other grade levels. The content is presented followed by questions related to the content. From time to time, you will notice “Notes to the Adult Mentor”, usually contained in the content. This information is for the person working on site with the student. The mentor never grades, only assists the young student.

An Adult Mentor who Works Directly with the Student on Site

As stated above, the Adult Mentor helps the student. Examples of types of work that are mentor driven include: choose books for student to read independently; choose books from the library that are required reading for the unit; assist with Science experiments; keep the written portfolio in tact and sent to you, the teacher, on time.

Kits for Language Arts and Math Containing Hands-On Materials

This kit is mailed directly from JCESC VLA Academy to the student. It will contain items like magnetic letters, journals, primary paper, cubes, and shapes. From time to time, students are directed, in the content, to use these items and respond to questions that the VLA Teacher will grade. Of course, the VLA Teacher is always supplied the correct response.

A Student-Written Portfolio

Although most of the work in the Second Grade curriculum is virtual, the Ohio Academic Content Standards require that young students develop fine motor skills by writing, drawing, coloring and other tasks. In order to include these skills in a virtual course, each Language Arts unit and some Math units contain requests for the student to write, draw or color.

For example, each Language Arts weekly unit presents the study of a group of words to be tested near the end of the unit. After several virtual activities, the student is directed to listen to the words spoken by the Adult Mentor and respond by spelling the words correctly, using paper and pencil (just as in a regular classroom). The student is then directed to send the VLA Teacher the spelling test “on Friday”.

The Content and Assessment portions of each unit always clearly indicate when the student is to respond in writing, and the student is always directed to send the small collection of the week’s written work to the Teacher each Friday. This means that the teacher will receive only one envelope containing a few pieces of student work per week.

The Adult Mentor will place the student’s work into an envelope supplied by the JCESC VLA and addressed to the VLA Teacher each Friday. The VLA Teacher will grade the written work and enter the grade as “correct” or “incorrect” within the assessment portion of the VLA program.

Please feel free to contact the Jefferson County Educational Service Center Virtual Learning Academy if you have questions or concerns.