



2nd Grade Learn to Swim

2nd Grade Learn-to-Swim Community Initiative: A program dedicated to ensuring every local child gains essential water safety and swimming skills by the end of second grade—building confidence, saving lives, and strengthening our community.

Purpose of Program:

To teach 2nd Graders in Sonoma how to swim

Scope of Program:

All 2nd Graders in Sonoma

Approximately 200 students

4 Public Schools, 2 Charter Schools

Students will receive a series of 8 no cost swim lessons, as well as water safety instruction at Sonoma Splash pool.

Information about water safety will be sent home to the families.

Cost:

\$5,000 per school Includes:

- Swim Instructors & Lifeguards
- Basic Swim Gear (goggles and gear bags)
- Transportation
- Follow Up Swim Passes for Student & Guardian
- Program Administration
- T-Shirts

"Throughout the lessons, I saw remarkable growth, not only in swimming ability, but also in social-emotional development"

Krissy Landini, 2nd Grade Teacher

2025 Pilot Program Summary

School: Sassarini Elementary School

April 2025

28 Students

- 15 Beginner/No Experience
- 8 Advanced Beginner
- 5 Intermediate

Progress

After 8 lessons:

- All of the beginners could float independently and swim a short distance.
- Advanced Beginners were learning freestyle and swimming independently.
- Intermediate swimmers learned freestyle, backstroke, and were introduced to breaststroke.

Results

- 9 students redeemed the offered pass to continue practicing in the summer
- 5 students continued swim lessons in the summer
- 1 is now on the Sonoma Sea Dragons Swim Team

"Teaching children how to swim not only saves lives, but also builds confidence, and opens pathways for their futures."

-Jane Hansen

Sonoma Splash Aquatics Director



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As a 2nd grade teacher at a Sassarini, a Title I school, I have witnessed firsthand the tremendous impact of providing free swim lessons to our students. Many of my students come from families with limited access to extracurricular opportunities, especially those that require transportation or fees. Without this program, most would not have had the chance to learn to swim — a vital life skill that promotes both safety and confidence.

Throughout the lessons, I saw remarkable growth not only in swimming ability but also in social-emotional development. Students learned to set goals, overcome fears, and encourage one another. Their confidence in the water translated into greater self-assurance in the classroom — I noticed improved participation, teamwork, and pride in their accomplishments.

This program also had a powerful ripple effect on families. Parents expressed deep gratitude for giving their children access to something they could not otherwise afford. Many shared that their children now feel safer and more excited about being near the water.

Free swim lessons are more than just a recreational opportunity — they are an investment in equity, safety, and the whole-child development of students who deserve access to the same enriching experiences as their peers. I am deeply thankful for the partnership and funding that made this experience possible and hopeful that it will continue to reach more children in our community.

–Krissy Landini
2nd Grade Teacher
Sassarini Elementary School

"He learned how to scoop the water so he could swim fast, how to hold his breath, and be safe in the deep end. I asked him how he learned how to be safe in the deep end and he said 'I learned how to swim out of it.'" -Parent of a Sassarini 2nd Grader