

PHILOSOPHY

This Social Studies Curriculum Guideline should serve as the basis upon which all instructional resources and teaching depend in the five strands. It is designed to comprise a spiral of learning that includes all the paradigms of the social studies. These paradigms assist students to view their world with an ever-broadening vision, so that they can understand their place, and their influence on the activities and events in the world. The strands included in this Guide include geography, economics, civics, history, and social, cultural, religious, and world perspectives. Social justice issues and current events are integral learning components in every grade. The social studies should be integrated with literature, the arts, and religion.

The social studies curriculum enables students to:

- explore and apply the growth and influence of Catholic traditions, principles, and values to all aspects of political, personal, and spiritual life;
- use the process of historical inquiry to understand the past, develop a sense of the present, and build perspectives on the future. These studies will contribute to the development of the student's historical self;
- develop and use geographic knowledge and concepts to understand the relationships between human and physical geography;
- examine the ideals, purposes, and characteristics of political systems to identify how people have organized and governed themselves throughout history. Students will analyze the history of American democracy in order to develop a sense of civic responsibility;
- examine economic choices, principles, and systems, in order to make informed economic decisions for themselves and their society;
- study the cultural elements of historical and current societies of the world in order to interpret the present and plan for the future;
- analyze historical, political, economic, and social connections among world societies in order to interpret the present, and plan for the future.

Students should develop an inclusive welcoming of all peoples and cultures and the variety they represent, seeing them all as children of God. Understanding the past will contribute to a fuller understanding of the present as a foundation for building the world's future. Probing all the social studies will enable students to see the web of interconnectedness of all peoples. The ultimate goal of social studies in education is to prepare students to make a significant contribution to society and make the world a better, more Christ-like place for the human family.