

**Sacred Heart School**  
**Grade 2 Course Syllabi**

Social Studies  
Grade 2

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**Course Description:** The second grade program focuses on communities and that people who live in them have needs and wants. Students will understand the importance of laws and rules, of being a good citizen, and how we celebrate our national holidays.

**Course Content:** Topics covered during the Social Studies curriculum include the early settlers, colonies, and how communities are formed, how our country began and the laws that were created, recognizing different customs and traditions, and discussions about national, state, and religious holidays.

**General Course Objectives:**

1. Students will recognize differences in customs of the past and present.
2. Students will understand the past history of our country and its path to independence.
3. Students will recognize the diversity of American Culture.
4. Students will recognize the need for rules and laws of the community and country.
5. Students will develop and understand that the purpose of a government is to serve citizens and make laws that help citizens.
6. Students will identify reasons of celebrating different holidays: national, state, and religious.
7. Students will begin to examine the structure of social groups and institutions.
8. Students describe the differences between and among cities, towns, and suburbs.
9. Students describe free enterprise in simple terms.
10. Students will identify geographic features and places.
11. Students describe how weather and climate affects humans.
12. Students will explain how the movement of people affects geography.
13. Students will define landform and plant regions.
14. Students will define and identify resources and apply Catholic social teaching and practices of conservation.
15. Students explain how living in a particular environment and/or community affects behavior and experiences.
16. Students will visualize, create, read, and interpret simple maps.

17. Students will identify and explain how the U.S. was influenced by Native Americans/American Indians, European explorers, and early settlers and citizens.
18. Students will explain how advances in technology and communications have changed the way people live.

**Course Materials:** Big Book Copy of Houghton Mifflin, Globe, Maps, Scholastic News

**Instructional Strategies:** Whole class discussion, Group projects, Independent learning, SMART Board presentations

**Assessment:** Teacher observation, Class participation, Peer teaching, Completion of projects