

Sacred Heart School
Grade 3 Social Studies
Course Syllabus

Course Description:

The third grade social studies program centers on the development of community and its connectedness to history, geography, economic choices, government, and culture. Students become skilled at reading visuals, maps, graphs, timelines, making citizenship decisions, and resolving conflicts. Third graders learn that towns and cities have a history, a location and purpose. Changes over time are discussed, and students develop an awareness of how citizens participate in government. Natural resources and their conservation are presented along with the celebration of different cultures and their holidays.

General Course Objectives:

- Students will develop map skills.
- Students will become aware of world regions.
- Students will understand reasons for studying history and learn about the meaning of time and chronology.
- Students will brainstorm reasons for both continuity and change.
- Students will begin to recognize the interrelatedness of geography, economics, culture, belief systems and political systems within history.
- Students will learn about the history of women and minorities.
- Students will understand human and environmental interaction as well as the movement of people, goods and ideas.
- Students will develop an appreciation for the balance of power established by the U.S. Constitution between majority and minority, the individual and the state, and government by and for the people.
- Students will begin to identify basic concepts of economics, basic wants and needs, scarcity, choices, decision making, opportunity, costs, resources, production, distribution, consumption, markets, labor and capital.
- Students will recognize the economic global interdependence of societies.

Course Materials:

- Houghton Mifflin Social Studies, Communities (2005)

Instructional Strategies:

Instructional strategies used are whole group instruction, discussion, group and individual projects, reports, independent learning.

Assessment:

Assessments used are teacher observation, class participation, homework, tests, quizzes, reports and projects.