



# Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Elementary Curriculum

## Social Studies PK-8<sup>th</sup> Grade

PRE-K	
<p><b>Learning How To Be A Student</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Differentiate between inappropriate and appropriate behavior</li><li>• Develop classroom rules to create a safe and loving environment</li><li>• Practice cleaning up after themselves</li><li>• Develop an appreciation and respect for one's own personal space</li><li>• Practice good Christian values and morals</li><li>• Recognize special places in the school building</li><li>• Demonstrate playground safety</li><li>• Model good behavior and choices in and outside the classroom</li></ul> <p><b>Seasons</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recognize weather changes</li><li>• Predict weather changes based on the seasons</li><li>• Determine appropriate clothing for different weather and seasons</li></ul> <p><b>Holidays</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recognize different holidays (name, date)</li><li>• Explain and participate in different celebrations</li><li>• Dramatize different holidays through finger plays/songs</li></ul>	<p><b>Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Define helpers within community, school and classroom</li><li>• Discuss helping others who are less fortunate</li><li>• Recognize jobs within their community and their importance</li><li>• Explain the rules and laws of community</li></ul> <p><b>Transportation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recognize and explain different forms of transportation and types of vehicles</li><li>• Identify how forms of transportation are used in the community</li></ul> <p><b>Geography</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Distinguish between land and water on a map and/or globe</li><li>• Locate one's home state on a map</li><li>• Identify geographical features on a map (i.e. mountains, hills, rivers, lakes, and oceans)</li></ul>



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### KINDERGARTEN

#### Community

- Distinguish the differences between classroom rules, school rules, and community rules
- Practice and discuss classroom, school and community rules
- Explain reason for rules related to basic safety and fairness
- Aid in the composure of classroom rules
- Demonstrate an understanding of classroom routines
- Describe basic functions of key community roles
- Distinguish the similarities and differences between community helpers and their jobs
- Recognize membership within the community
- Examine similarities and differences between one's own culture and other cultures
- Define the roles of the family members and their contributions to the family unit
- Compare different family structures and traditions
- Distinguish the similarities and differences among individuals and families
- Differentiate types of neighborhoods; i.e. rural, urban, suburban
- Identify and explain the significance of important locations in one's neighborhood
- Recognize the needs of the community and discuss ways for students to respond to community needs
- Demonstrate and practice being a good citizen through acts of kindness and generosity

#### Geography

- Recognize the importance and various uses of maps
- Recognize various shelters and homes and differentiate the structure of each, given available resources and location

#### Holidays/Calendar

- Recognize the significance of each holiday
- Discuss the importance of each holiday, its origin and celebrations associated with it
- Recognize different foods and cultures as it relates to the holiday
- Examine similarities and differences between one's own culture and other cultures to which students are exposed through personal experience or media
- Examine holidays and people that Americans honor and celebrate
- Identify, recite, and understand days of the week, months of the year, and seasons
- Categorize activities for each season
- Understand appropriate clothing for all types of weather
- Locate yesterday, today, and tomorrow on a calendar to sequence events
- Use terms such as, before and after to compare events

#### Government and Civics

- Understand that individuals have a responsibility to themselves and the community to preserve and protect our environment
- Describe how people's actions can affect our environment
- Demonstrate and practice stewardship of our resources
- Explore ways to conserve energy
- Examine ways pollution is harmful to our environment and explore ways to prevent pollution
- Recognize the flag as well as American symbols using daily pledge, songs and poetry
- Know that money is represented by different forms
- Describe types of transportation and related geographical features (ex. boats go in the water, cars have wheels)
- Explain how one travels to and from school and other places in the community



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### FIRST GRADE

#### Families

- Identify different families
- Compare and contrast families from the past to the present
- Discuss families and extended families
- Illustrate and label family portraits
- Examine family traditions

#### Communities and Citizenship

- Listen to and interpret information from various teacher read-alouds
- Discuss information derived from teacher read-alouds
- Identify roles and responsibilities of different community helpers
- Recognize the name of the President of the United States
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of school workers
- Describe the characteristics of a good citizen
- Demonstrate examples of good citizenship
- Promote respectable behavior
- Formulate rules for the classroom
- Differentiate between rights and privileges
- Practice being responsible in the classroom through classroom jobs
- Dramatize problem-solving skills and making good choices in a situation
- Explain and demonstrate respect for self, others, animals and property
- Evaluate one's role in a situation
- Practice self-control
- Analyze votes to determine winners
- Predict outcomes of a specific classroom vote, and explain

#### Holidays

- Relate the importance of holidays to families around the world
- Compare and contrast traditions
- Recognize and identify symbols related to a holiday

#### Economics

- Classify needs and wants, and how people obtain them
- Distinguish the difference between goods and services
- Discuss and identify various types of transportation
- Explain why you would choose one form of transportation over another
- Identify the role of transportation in the exchange of goods
- Identify a variety of jobs that people perform
- Describe the responsibilities of good workers at their job
- Compare and contrast tools people used for work long ago with tools people use now

#### Geography

- Identify the map key, compass rose and map features
- Locate specific points on a map
- Locate one's state as well as neighboring states on a map
- Create various maps
- Describe physical characteristics of land forms/ bodies of water
- Identify examples of natural resources
- Differentiate between town, state and country
- Compare and contrast a flat map to a three dimensional globe

#### Historical Figures

- Explain the importance of the historical figure
- Compare and contrast the time of the historical figure and today
- Identify and explain the contributions of historical figure



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### SECOND GRADE

#### Community

- Define and discuss parts of a community
- Compare and contrast urban, suburban and rural communities
- Examine contribution of community workers
- Recognize and locate places within their own and nearby communities on maps
- Evaluate how rules and laws help to establish order and safety in our communities

#### Geography

- Locate and distinguish between the United States of America and its neighbors on a map and globe
- Memorize the oceans and seven continents
- Recognize and identify major landforms and bodies of water
- Research and evaluate how/why people depend on natural resources to satisfy their basic needs
- Examine and analyze ways in which people impact/protect the earth
- Interpret map keys and symbols
- Compare and contrast resources that are made, learned, built, or grown, i.e.: building a dam versus natural waterways (Hoover Dam vs. Grand Canyon)
- Discuss and evaluate how physical systems (weather and climate) affect people and their lives, i.e.: life in Alaska vs. life in Hawaii, rural vs. urban, etc.

#### Economics

- Comprehend that people work to make money and to help others
- Explain the choices that people make about earning, saving and spending money
- Distinguish between producers and consumers
- Analyze how various occupations contribute to a marketplace

#### History

- Explore Native American culture and its significance in American history
- Evaluate significant aspects of the lives and accomplishments of historical figures and their influences on American history and culture
- Recognize our national holidays and celebrations and relate them to events in history
- Identify early explorers who came to America
- Analyze current events and their shaping of future conditions

#### Government

- Explore the significance and functions of the three levels of government
- Compare the roles of public officials, including mayor/first selectman, governor and president
- Identify our nation's and state's symbols, buildings and monuments
- Define the characteristics of good citizenship such as beliefs in justice, truth, equality, and responsibility for the common good
- Examine the ways that our public officials are selected including elections and appointments

#### Culture

- Demonstrate the ways that the celebration of holidays contribute to and enhance our American culture
- Examine how customs and traditions contribute to our national identity
- Discover and analyze the impact of diversity on the development of our American culture
- Examine one's family history/ancestry and interpret geographic movement patterns as they relate to American culture



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### THIRD GRADE

#### Geography

- Recognize a community's location according to city, state, country, continent and hemisphere
- Locate continents and major oceans on a map
- Compare and contrast a map and globe
- Interpret a map to locate places using the map key, distance scale, compass rose, cardinal and intermediate directions
- Calculate the distance from one location to another on a map

#### Communities

- Identify and analyze ways communities are alike and different
- Describe the characteristics of a community
- Compare and contrast the features of different communities (rural, suburban, and urban)
- Examine how communities are founded
- Compare and contrast customs and cultures in communities

#### People Living in Communities

- Discuss the role of citizens within a community and culture
- Evaluate the important needs of a community
- Propose ways people protect their environment
- Examine how climate, physical features and human made features may affect a community
- Understand the importance of renewable and non-renewable resources

#### Communities and Their Histories

- Explain why the Pilgrims came to America
- Understand the significance of the pioneer
- Interpret a time line to show when important events happened in a place

#### Citizens and Government

- Explain the basic services provided by local government
- Identify the basic structure of local government
- Compare and contrast local, state, and national governments

#### Economics and Communities

- Explain how needs are met within a community
- Analyze why certain products are produced in specific locations
- Recognize the significance of natural resources as they relate to economy

#### Pennsylvania

- Identify and locate the regions and counties in PA
- Investigate landforms present in one's location/community/city
- Identify major rivers, cities, regions and major physical features of Pennsylvania
- Compare and contrast physical characteristics of Pennsylvania to all regions of the U.S.
- Investigate how people make a living in PA
- List major goods and services in PA



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### FOURTH GRADE

#### Geography

- Identify and locate the regions, states and capitals in the U.S.
- Describe and analyze the effects of climate and weather
- Identify and utilize the following components of a map: Key, scale, compass rose, title, locator and symbols
- Identify and analyze different types of maps:
  - physical map
  - political map
  - population map
  - transportation map
  - historical map

#### Government

- Explain the processes of law making
- Identify and investigate the 3 branches of the federal government (Legislative, Judicial, Executive)
- Compare and contrast the Democratic Party and the Republican Party
- Explore the history of political parties and how they have changed over time
- Describe the purpose of a political party
- Analyze articles from various government sources relating to contemporary issues (ex. Constitution, Bill of Rights)
- Compare and contrast local, federal and international government

#### Economy

- Investigate how people make a living in different regions of the US.
- List major goods and services in the US
- Explain the concept of supply and demand
- Analyze the various ways goods are transported to and from the US
- Demonstrate the need for taxes
- Compare and contrast the economy of different regions of our country

#### History and Culture

- Identify and define Native American tribes by their traditions, communities and location
- Describe the origin and intent of the European colonial settlements
- Describe how the European colonists influenced our government
- Explain the relationship between the European colonists and the Native American tribes
- Compare and contrast the Native American culture pre- and post-colonization
- Research and present an aspect of our culture
- Examine and explain state symbols and influential people
- Compare and contrast the History and culture of PA to another state in a different region and another country



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### FIFTH GRADE

#### Geography and Maps

- Identify major landforms and climate areas
- Differentiate between longitude(meridians) and latitude(parallel)
- Understand topography
- Interpret map keys, cardinal and intermediate directions
- Name the five regions of the US
- Differentiate among map types
- Recognize time zones

#### Native Americans

- Interpret & integrate knowledge of established Native American tribes & cultures
- Compare and contrast the four cultural regions, identify and describe characteristics of the tribes within those regions
- Explain the role of the Iroquois League played in keeping the peace
- Distinguish the relationship between geography and culture

#### Early European Explorers

- Distinguish & differentiate between each European country's purpose for exploration / colonization
- Create and evaluate timelines of western exploration
- Appraise the importance of advancements in navigation and technology

#### Early Colonies

- Describe the difficulties that these early colonies faced
- Explain how those difficulties helped later colonies succeed
- Recognize and evaluate the impact of the ideas and beliefs of significant historical figures
- Examine reasons for colonization
- Examine historical events from different perspectives

#### Thirteen Original Colonies

- Examine the religious, economic, and agricultural motivations behind the forming of the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies
- Compare and contrast the similarities and differences of life in the 13 colonies
- Examine the changing relationship between the colonists and Native Americans as it relates to westward expansion
- Identify the causes and effects of slavery

#### Pre-American Revolution

- Interpret the cause and effect of the British action and the colonist reaction (i.e. Stamp Act, Tea Act, Intolerable Acts / Boston Tea Party, First Continental Congress, Committees of Correspondence, etc.)
- Recognize founding members of government & their roles in early American history
- Examine and analyze Declaration of Independence

#### Revolutionary War

- Discuss significant battles, leaders, contribution of women and African-Americans between 1775-1779
- Locate & interpret the significant battles on both historical & current maps
- Describe the contributions of outside nations to both sides

#### The Constitution

- Assess & describe the construction and ratification of the United States Constitution
- Understand geographical differences caused difficulties in the writing of the Constitution
- Discuss the contributions of significant patriots to the development of The Constitution
- Differentiate between the functions of the three branches of government



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### SIXTH GRADE

#### Early Civilizations

- Identify major characteristics and contributions of the people of the Fertile Crescent, Mesopotamia, Babylonia, Assyria, the early Hebrews, Phoenicians and Lydians
- Describe aspects about Yahweh, the Code of Morals, and how these ethical traditions affected Western Civilization

#### Roman Empire

- Identify major characteristics and developments
- Describe features of government and the rise of the republic and transition to empire
- Explain the migration of the Jews, origins of Christianity, how Christianity spread
- Appraise the legacy left to us in art, architecture, technology, science, literature, language, and law

#### China

- Locate ancient and modern China on a map
- Explain how the physical geography affects the development and growth of societies in China
- Identify the belief system of China and analyze how it affected its historical accomplishments
- Compare and contrast the belief systems and values with other civilizations
- Identify the types of government in China
- Evaluate the government system and how it affected Chinese society
- Survey the economic system of China
- Determine how the economic system affected society in China
- Appraise the lasting achievements of China on modern society
- Formulate an analysis of the changes that occurred as a result of exploration

#### Egypt

- Locate ancient and modern Egypt on a map
- Explain how the physical geography affects the development and growth of societies in Egypt
- Describe the belief system of Egypt and analyze how it affected its historical accomplishments
- Compare and contrast the belief systems and values with other civilizations
- Identify the types of government in Egypt
- Evaluate the government system and how it affected Egyptian society
- Survey the economic system of Egypt
- Determine how the economic system affected society in Egypt

#### Greece

- Locate ancient and modern Greece on a map
- Explain how the physical geography affects the development and growth of societies in Greece
- Describe the belief system of Greece and analyze how it affected its historical accomplishments
- Compare and contrast the belief systems and values with other civilizations
- Identify the types of government in Greece
- Evaluate the government system and how it affected Greek society
- Survey the economic system of Greece
- Determine how the economic system affected society in Greece
- Appraise the lasting achievements of Greece on modern society
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### SEVENTH GRADE

#### European Exploration of the US/Geography

- Evaluate the factors that motivated Europeans to discover and explore the Americas
- Describe the migration patterns and analyze their impact on the development of the New World
- Examine the geographic changes in the world map due to European exploration

#### Life in the Colonies/Geography

- Examine the social, political, economic, and religious impact of European empire building in North and South America
- Discuss the economic, political, social, and religious factors in England and France and evaluate their impact on Colonial life
- Compare and contrast life in each of the European colonies

#### Problems with England

- Explain what key events united the Patriots
- Evaluate how the British government taxed their subjects and the reactions of the colonists
- Analyze the reasons why the Continental Congress was convened and what was accomplished by it
- Explain why violence erupted at Lexington and Concord

#### Declaration of Independence and the Revolution

- Define three basic freedoms to which all people are entitled
- Formulate opinions about why the Colonists drafted the Declaration of Independence
- Examine reasons why some Americans supported the British
- Examine why the Battle of Saratoga was a turning point in the war

#### Creating a More Perfect Union

- Evaluate how the Bill of Rights affected the ratification of the Constitution
- Relate the functions of the 3 branches of the federal government to state government
- Identify the responsibilities of American citizens

#### America as a Young Nation

- Compare and contrast how the first five Presidents approached governing and policy
- Examine the formation of new political parties
- Evaluate how the regions of the country are developing their economic and cultural identities

#### Manifest Destiny

- Examine the reasons why people moved to the new territories
- Discuss life for settlers in the territories
- Evaluate life of Native Americans pre- and post-settlement

#### Life in the Territories

- Classify the roles and lifestyles of western settlers
- Identify new jobs that were created as a result of settlement

#### The North and The South

- Explore the political, economic, cultural, and social events and influences which led to the Civil War



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### EIGHTH GRADE

#### Civil War and Reconstruction

- Examine information from charts and timelines
- Connect historical and contemporary issues
- Compare and contrast forms of government and how each operates
- Evaluate post-war challenges that faced the Nation
- Compare and contrast different Reconstruction plans
- Recognize the importance of the Lincoln Assassination
- Analyze the change in the South brought on by Radical Reconstruction and why conflicts developed
- Evaluate how the Ku Klux Klan and other societies tried to prevent African Americans from exercising their rights
- Identify why support for reconstruction declined
- Describe sharecropping systems

#### Modernizing America: Industrialization/Expansionism

- Describe how railroad building encouraged the growth of America's economy
- Identify factors that were responsible for growth of huge steel and oil empires after the Civil War
- Analyze how Thomas Edison and other inventors brought new technologies to Americans at home and at work
- Clarify how workplace changes led to rise of Labor organizations such as AFL and Knights of Labor
- Explain the differences in immigrant settlement patterns

#### Reform and War

- Analyze political cartoons, propaganda and primary source documents
- Compile information from charts and timelines
- Analyze multiple perspectives
- Formulate a personal opinion based on historical events
- Organize and cite primary and secondary source documents
- Evaluate the credibility and identify the bias of information
- Compare and contrast forms of government and operations
- Develop and demonstrate research skills

#### Depression, War, and The New Deal

- Define Prohibition
- Explain how new popular cultures changed American life
- Analyze the signs of economic trouble that led to the Crash of 1929 and the Great Depression
- Evaluate the economic reforms that were aimed at preventing another Depression
- Re-examine Wilson's plan for a lasting and just peace
- Understand the effects of the Treaty of Versailles
- Discuss the role the U.S. played in World Affairs after WWI

#### The Cold War and The Civil Rights Movement

- Identify the kind of war US troops faced
- Evaluate propaganda, censorship, and bias
- Make an argument as to why the United States does or does not have an obligation to protect human rights around the world
- Describe events that led the United States to send combat troops to Vietnam

#### Entering a New Millennium

- Analyze the impact of new technology on daily life and the economy
- Analyze how economic change affected workers
- Explore examples of global interdependence
- Distinguish the unique contributions to society of the newest immigrants

#### Contemporary/Current Affairs

- Illustrate how continuity and change have impacted world history with respect to: belief systems and religions, commerce and industry, technology, politics and government, physical and human geography, social organizations
- Discuss how businesses, politics, and governments have changed or stayed the same over time



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All standards are derived from the following public resources:

- ❖ [Pennsylvania State Board of Education: Academic Standards for History](#)