

KINDERGARTEN – SECOND GRADE OVERVIEW

The intrinsically creative and imaginative nature of Grades K-2 students prompts them to want to explore their world. Through exploration they encounter and gain appreciation of the array of beliefs, cultures, and customs that comprise our world. Students at this level are concrete learners who benefit greatly from challenging, multisensory instructional opportunities that provide time for them to be actively engaged in learning. Through a thematic approach to instruction, students begin to develop an appreciation for their community, state, and nation while broadening their perspectives regarding the lives of others. The use of various genres of literature and hands-on activities that address each strand of the curriculum allows students to experience social studies in real and meaningful ways. The classroom should be one in which students are immersed in a print-rich environment that includes reading stories, myths, legends, and biographies that captivate their imagination. Viewing artifacts, records, and illustrations helps make connections with people and places around the community, state, and nation.

The Grades K-2 social studies content standards introduce students to basic social studies concepts through an integration across all disciplines, including language arts, mathematics, science, the fine arts, technology, and physical education. Students learn about past and present events in history and everyday life and begin to pose questions that promote understanding beyond the present-day world and into the future. Kindergarten content addresses living and working together in family and communities while first-grade content focuses on living and working together in communities and in the state. Second-grade content expands on the theme of living and working together to include state and nation. Throughout the curriculum students are able to develop a sense of their place in the world, including ways to excel both as private individuals and as public citizens.