

PETERS TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

CORE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

SOCIAL STUDIES

GRADE 2

For each of the sections that follow, students may be required to understand, apply, analyze, evaluate or create the particular concepts being taught.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will learn about political science, economics, geography, cultural studies, and history.

STUDY SKILLS

- Have the necessary materials organized for each class
- Keep and organize materials for long term projects
- Read and re-read for understanding

MAJOR UNIT THEMES:

1. POLITICAL SCIENCE

- Describe characteristics of good citizenship, and how citizens take action to improve their communities
- Describe the rights citizens have in the United States
- Identify United States documents in which the rights of citizens are guaranteed
- Identify rules and laws, and describe their purpose in school, community and society
- Identify government leaders and their roles in a community, state and nation
- Describe how leaders are chosen, such as by election and appointment to office
- Describe why the Declaration of Independence was written
- Identify symbols and historical figures that are important to our democracy

2. ECONOMICS

- Recognize that everyone has basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter as well as wants
- Understand that families and communities make choices based on scarce resources
- read a flow chart
- Recognize that people provide services to earn income and these services can help the community
- Recognize that people can use money to exchange goods and services and that income not spent is savings

3. GEOGRAPHY

- Describe relative and absolute location and use a map to locate places and features
- Identify the uses and parts of a map, and find locations on a map using cardinal and intermediate directions
- Use a map scale
- Identify the seven continents and four oceans on a map and globe using latitude, longitude and the equator as guide
- Identify physical features such as landforms and bodies of water
- Describe how weather and climate affect where and how people, plants and animals live
- Explain how people negatively and positively alter Earth's land, water and natural resources
- Describe how changes in technology and transportation affect how we move ideas and goods

4. CULTURAL STUDIES

- Understand that culture is a way of life learned from your family and community
- Describe cultural characteristics such as music, food, language and art
- Compare and contrast cultures
- Identify and describe national holidays that honor the achievements of Americans
- Identify characters in American stories who demonstrate positive character traits

5. HISTORY

- Compare and contrast life today to life in the past
- Read a timeline
- Identify tools for learning about history and how to differentiate between primary and secondary sources
- Recognize Native Americans as the first inhabitants of North America and compare their cultures
- Identify key people and events that shaped our country
- Know that over time our country has grown in size
- Know why immigrants came to the United States 2013

MATERIALS (and Supplemental materials used in course):

- Social Studies Book: Pearson My World
- Brainpopjr.com
- Discoveryeducation.com
- Supplemental books from school library
- District owned and approved videos and DVDs

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