

Course Name: Grade 2 Social Studies

Course Description:

Learning how to be a member of a community that works together for a common purpose is one of the key goals of elementary social studies. As students learn to participate in the classroom community by solving problems and making decisions together, they learn key concepts and skills that will be necessary for participating in larger civic communities such as their town, state and nation. In second grade, students explore the local communities of Scotch Plains and Fanwood to understand how communities are places where people live, work, play and solve problems. In addition to finding similarities and differences among individuals, students begin to develop the concept of culture, and consider the ways that cultures are similar and different. Using the framework of cultural universals, students explore the things that all cultures have (universal traits such as clothing, shelter and celebrations) and the ways that cultures can practice those universal traits in diverse ways. As students' consciousness of the world around them begins to expand, they also begin to evaluate the ways that people can make a difference in their community and in the world. Students apply what they learn in various disciplines to create ways of making positive changes when they notice problems. The units of study in second grade include Being Good Citizens in Our Community, Geography and Culture, and Global Connections.

Course Proficiencies: The following is a list of proficiencies that describe what students are expected to know and be able to do as a result of successfully completing this course. The proficiencies are the basis of the assessment of student achievement. The learner will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Engage in discussion with others while demonstrating appreciation and respect for diverse opinions and multiple perspectives. (6.1.2.CivicsPD.1, 6.1.2.CivicsCM.3)
2. Explain why various communities establish rules and procedures, and acknowledge the ways that rules and procedures can promote the common good. 6.1.2.CivicsPR.4, 6.1.2.CivicsDP.2)
3. Define community, provide examples of the communities to which they belong, and explain how communities help people to satisfy their needs and wants. (6.1.2.CivicsPI.5, 6.1.2.CivicsCM.2)
4. Participate in a problem-solving and decision-making process that demonstrates respect for multiple perspectives and promotes the common good. (6.1.2.CivicsPD.2, 6.1.2.CivicsCM.2, 6.1.2.CivicsCM.1)

5. Identify the places in Scotch Plains and Fanwood that allow people to live, work, play and solve problems within the communities. (6.1.2.CivicsPI.4, 6.1.2.EconET.5, 6.1.2.CivicsPI.5, 6.1.2.EconEM.2)
6. Describe how local government is organized and the ways in which it helps to solve problems in the community. (6.1.2.CivicsPI.6, 6.1.2.CivicsPI.5, 6.1.2.EconET.5, 6.1.2.CivicsPI.1, 6.1.2.CivicsPI.2, 6.1.2.CivicsPI.3, 6.1.2.EconNE.2)
7. Compare and contrast different types of communities and explain how people's lives are impacted by the communities in which they live. (6.1.2.EconEM.2, 6.1.2.Geo.HE.1, 6.1.2.Geo.HE.2, 6.1.2.GeoPP.1)
8. Describe basic physical geographic features of different communities and explain how the physical geography and climate of a location impacts the way people live. (6.1.2.Geo.HE.2, 6.1.2.Geo.HE.4)
9. Define cultural universals and provide examples that demonstrate awareness of and respect for cultural diversity. (6.1.2.HistoryUP.2)
10. Analyze the ways that people solve problems in various communities including problems at the national and global level. (6.3.2.CivicsPD.1, 6.3.2.GeoGI.2)
11. Apply the knowledge and skills gained from their study in various disciplines (including social studies and science) to propose solutions to problems in the world around them. (6.3.2.CivicsPD.1, 6.3.2.GeoGI.1, 6.3.2.GeoGI.2)
12. Identify the ways that people around the world can be impacted by the same issues, events or actions. (6.1.2.Geo.GI.1, 6.3.2.GeoGI.1, 6.3.2.GeoGI.2)

Assessments:

1. Teacher observation
2. Individual and group work
3. Classroom discussion
4. Open-ended responses

Board Adopted Materials:

Social Studies Alive! Our Community
Teachers Curriculum Institute: 2022