



Diocese of Madison

**SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION
STANDARDS & BENCHMARKS**



Grades K—8

Office of Catholic Schools

The newest edition of the Diocese of Madison Social Studies Standards and Benchmarks by grade level represent what students should know and be able to do in six strands of Social Studies. The benchmarks are written in easy-to-read language, which is intended to be interpreted by students at the appropriate grade level.

The Social Studies standards and benchmarks represent a continuum of learning; while the grade level benchmarks are categorized by three groupings of grade levels, the scope and sequence of the curriculum is ultimately left to local building control. Particularly at the middle school level, the curriculum may not align with the recommended benchmarks; and while these benchmarks are a guide agreed upon by the committee members, they should not dictate or prescribe learning targets universally. There may be many instances where benchmarks are covered at grade levels that differ from the suggestions, as Social Studies can often be non-linear in study format.

Benchmarks are based in large part on the new *Wisconsin Academic Standards for Social Studies*. The 2018 Wisconsin model is based on a number of national guidelines and is a significant refresh from both the state and existing national models that preceded the new iteration. In particular, the strong emphasis on active student voice and participation in areas of Social Studies takes the benchmark from a passive curriculum to a dynamic suggestion of experience as a responsible and contributing member of society.

As with many of the curricular content areas in the Diocese of Madison, the Catholic Identity is assumed within each benchmark. Educators should take every available opportunity to transform how a student can be a 'responsible and contributing member of society' to being a 'responsible and contributing *Catholic* to the larger levels of society'. There is a deep need for the students we serve to change our society from the inside out. The values and morals we teach, and the Gospel we preach, belong in a transformative way among the public that we also serve. Now, more than ever, Catholic Schools should bear witness to spreading the Good News.

2018 Social Studies Standards Committee Members:

Dan Brandt; HG-IC School, Dickeyville-Kieler

Michael Flanagan; Office of Catholic Schools

Jacki Haberman; St. John the Baptist School, Jefferson

Kathi Klaas; St. Peter School, Ashton

Trevor Seivert; Our Lady of the Assumption School, Beloit

Social Studies Standards - Grades K-8

SSI. Social Studies: Inquiry

SSI.1. Key Ideas and Details

SSI.2. Plan Inquiry

SSI.3. Gathering and Evaluating Applicable Resources

SSI.4. Developing Claims

SSI.5. Citing Evidence

SSI.6. Communicating Conclusions

SSB. Social Studies: Behavioral Sciences

SSB.1. Individual Perception and Behavior

SSB.2. Personal Identity and Empathy

SSB.3. Relationship of People and Groups

SSB.4. Cultural Patterns

SSB.5. Social Interactions

Social Studies Standards - Grades K-8 (continued)

SSE. Social Studies: Economics

- SSE.1. Choices and Decision-Making
- SSE.2. Incentives
- SSE.3. Consumers, Producers, and Markets
- SSE.4. Supply, Demand, and Competition
- SSE.5. Cost of Production
- SSE.6. Economic Indicators
- SSE.7. Money
- SSE.8. Economic Fluctuations
- SSE.9. Allocation of Resources
- SSE.10. Institutions
- SSE.11. Role of Government
- SSE.12. Specialization, Trade, and Interdependence

SSG. Social Studies: Geography

- SSG.1. Tools of Geography
- SSG.2. Spatial Thinking
- SSG.3. Mental Mapping
- SSG.4. Population and Place
- SSG.5. Impact of Movement
- SSG.6. Urbanization
- SSG.7. Distribution of Resources
- SSG.8. Transportation of People and Ideas
- SSG.9. Characteristics of Place
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- SSG.11. Interdependence

Social Studies Standards - Grades K-8 (continued)

SSH. Social Studies: History

- SSH.1. Cause and Effect
- SSH.2. Patterns of Historical Themes
- SSH.3. Contextualization
- SSH.4. Connections
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- SSH.6. Current Implications

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- SSP.1. American Democracy
- SSP.2. Origins of U.S. Government
- SSP.3. Human and Civil Rights
- SSP.4. Human and Civil Liberties
- SSP.5. Fundamentals of Citizenship
- SSP.6. Government Participation
- SSP.7. Government and Media Awareness
- SSP.8. Power in Government
- SSP.9. Public Policy
- SSP.10. Argumentation
- SSP.11. Concensus Building

SSI.

Social Studies: Inquiry

		K-2	3-5	6-8
SSI. Social Studies: Inquiry				
SSI.1.	Question Development	Recognize that a question is important to understanding the world around us.	Create a list of open- and closed-ended questions on a topic or issue.	Create open-ended questions for further research.
SSI.2.	Plan Inquiry	Develop a question(s) in order to learn more about a situation.	Develop questions that support the research, discussion, and investigation.	Identify relevant sources that support student-led inquiry.
SSI.3.	Gathering & Evaluating Applicable Resources	Determine valuable resources to answer a question.	Gather and evaluate resources to determine which best answer the question.	Determine usefulness and credibility of primary and secondary sources.
SSI.4.	Developing Claims	With prompting and support, state a claim to answer a question.	Create a thesis statement based on evidence found in sources to make a claim.	Develop a debatable and defensible claim based on the analysis of sources.
SSI.5.	Citing Evidence	Recognize that evidence should be used when answering a question.	Select appropriate evidence from sources to support a claim.	Support claim with evidence from multiple reliable sources representing a range of mediums.
SSI.6.	Communicating Conclusions	Present findings and respond effectively to others' questions and feedback.	Evaluate the strength of a claim and its evidence.	Evaluate the logic, relevance, and accuracy of claims, taking into consideration personal bias.

SSB.

Social Studies: Behavioral Sciences

		K-2	3-5	6-8
SSB. Social Studies: Behavioral Sciences				
SSB.1.	Individual Perception and Behavior	Recognize that an adult might react differently than a child to a situation.	Understand that a reaction is affected by prior experiences.	Identify factors that influence a person's cognition, perception, and behavior.
SSB.2.	Personal Identity and Empathy	Understand that people may have different reactions to the same situation.	Understand that culture, ethnicity, race, age, religion, and social class can affect someone's life.	Understand the effects of ethnic and/or gender discrimination on identity.
SSB.3.	Relationship of People and Groups	Understand how groups of people are alike and different.	Understand how people from different cultures solve common problems.	Understand how elements of culture can unify or divide a group of people.
SSB.4.	Cultural Patterns	Recognize ways people change and adapt to new situations.	Understand how people from different cultures develop different values and viewpoints.	Understand how individuals learn the elements of their culture and of other cultures.
SSB.5.	Social Interactions	Compare a belief and/or tradition in one culture to another culture (e.g., celebrating Holidays).	Understand how similarities and differences in cultures may lead to understandings and misunderstandings.	Understand how individuals, groups, and institutions can influence people, events, and cultures.

SSE.

Social Studies: Economics

		K-2	3-5	6-8
SSE. Social Studies: Economics				
SSE.1.A.	Choices and Decision-Making	Understand the difference between a want and a need.	Compare and contrast the costs and benefits of a decision.	Analyze how the opportunity costs of decisions might vary based on the situation.
SSE.1.B.		Identify what is important to you, your family, community, and country.	Be able to categorize limited resources (e.g., money, materials, time, labor).	Evaluate how limited resources impact the choices of individuals, households, communities, businesses, and countries.
SSE.2.	Incentives	Given a real-world situation, identify a potential reward.	Understand how incentives impact individual and/or household decision-making.	Evaluate how incentives determine what is produced and distributed in a competitive market system.
SSE.3.A.	Consumers, Producers, and Markets	Understand the difference between buyers and sellers (consumers and producers).	Understand that supply and demand affects products, availability, and the workforce.	Understand how individuals, businesses, and governments are both consumers and producers.
SSE.3.B.			Understand the difference between goods and services.	Understand the roles of consumers and producers of the market for goods and services.
SSE.4.	Supply, Demand, and Competition	Understand how products are priced.	Assess the roles of consumers, producers, prices, non-price factors (e.g., fad items, natural disasters), and competition.	Evaluate the extent to which competition exists and how it can affect price, quantity, and variety.

		K-2	3-5	6-8
SSE. Social Studies - Economics				
SSE.5.	Cost of Production	Understand how resources are used to make goods.	Identify the factors of production (e.g., location, materials, equipment, expertise, motivation) in order to make a profit.	Evaluate factors of production and how they are combined to provide goods and/or services for a profit.
SSE.6.	Economic Indicators	Understand the cost of everyday goods.	Understand how the cost of goods and services change over time.	Analyze how inflation, deflation, and unemployment affect different groups.
SSE.7.	Money	Understand why money is used and should be saved.	Describe the role of money, banking, and savings in everyday life, including why people borrow money and the role of interest.	Understand the functions of money and how interest rates influence borrowing and investing.
SSE.8.	Economic Fluctuations		Identify the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross National Product (GNP).	Analyze the use of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to assess the state of an economy.
SSE.9.	Allocation of Resources	Understand how a good gets to a local community or market.	Identify the chain of supply for a basic need (food, clothing, shelter).	Understand how different economic systems meet the needs of their consumers.
SSE.10.	Institutions	Identify different jobs people have and how they help each other.	Understand the role of economic institutions (e.g. banks, government) in helping individuals and society.	Understand rules and laws that protect consumers, workers, businesses, and institutions.
SSE.11.	Role of Government	Identify goods and services that the government provides and how they help people.	Understand why governments tax and the impact on the economy.	Evaluate types of taxes (e.g., progressive, regressive) and earned benefits with eligibility criteria (e.g. Social Security, Medicare).
SSE.12.A.	Specialization, Trade, and Interdependence	Understand how people can benefit themselves and others.	Identify goods and services that vary between two or more regions.	Identify the role of specialization in trade.
SSE.12.B.		Understand why people in different countries trade goods.	Identify examples of U.S. imports and exports.	Understand the benefits and costs of trade policies to individuals, businesses, societies, and among countries.

		K-2	3-5	6-8
SSG. Social Studies: Geography				
SSG.1.	Tools of Geography	Understand the difference between maps and globes.	Understand how absolute and relative location affects people, places, and environment (e.g. absolute and relative).	Demonstrate understanding of the appropriate features of a variety of maps (e.g., distortion, area, distance, direction).
SSG.2.	Spatial Thinking	Recognize physical and human characteristics of a place using maps, graphs, photographs, and other representations.	Evaluate patterns in a variety of maps, charts, and graphs to display geographic information.	Evaluate purposes of and differences among maps, globes, aerial photographs, charts, and satellite images.
SSG.3.	Mental Mapping	Create a map of a familiar and an unfamiliar place, using title, compass rose, and symbols.	Locate regions, and physical and cultural features throughout the world.	Understand that mental maps are shaped by individual perceptions of people, places, regions, and environments.
SSG.4.	Population and Place	Understand why people live in certain places, including local and global communities.	Understand types of communities and their populations, including local and global communities.	Understand the distribution and movement of populations on a local and global scale.
SSG.5.	Impact of Movement	Understand that the movement of people impacts communities (e.g., physical, social, geographic, economic, religious, etc.)	Understand and explain how the movement of people impacts communities (e.g., physical, social, geographic, economic, religious, etc.)	Understand and evaluate the global impacts of population shifts over a period of time.

		K-2	3-5	6-8
SSG. Social Studies: Geography				
SSG.6.	Urbanization	Understand the differences between rural and urban areas.	Understand the relationships between rural and urban areas.	Understand and explain the interdependence of rural and urban areas on a global scale.
SSG.7.	Distribution of Resources	Understand what a resource is and how it affects a community.	Understand how the access to various resources impacts the patterns of human settlement.	Understand the relationship between the distribution of various resources and patterns of human settlement.
SSG.8.	Transportation of People and Ideas	Understand how transportation and communication have changed over time.	Identify how people, products, and ideas move between places.	Understand the patterns of transportation and communication used in local and global communities.
SSG.9.	Characteristics of Place	Identify the physical and nonphysical characteristics of a place.	Understand the physical and nonphysical characteristics of a place related to its culture.	Understand and evaluate the ways culture and the characteristics of a place can change over time.
SSG.10.	Human Environment Interaction	Understand how humans change the physical environment.	Understand the effects of human actions on the physical environment over time.	Analyze the intentional and unintentional impacts humans have on the environment over time.
SSG.11.	Interdependence	Understand that people share and trade products and resources.	Understand that the distribution of resources creates systems of commerce between groups.	Hypothesize how changes in human behavior can result in changes that have effects on a global scale.

SSH.

Social Studies: History

		K-2	3-5	6-8
SSH. Social Studies: History				
SSH.1.	Cause and Effect	Identify the cause and effect on an event, issue, or problem.	Use evidence to draw conclusions about probable cause and effect of an event, issue, or problem.	Use multiple perspectives to analyze and explain the cause and effect of events within and across time periods, events, or cultures.
SSH.2.	Patterns of Historical Themes	Identify and describe patterns of what stays the same and what changes to self, family, and community over time.	Using multiple sources, evaluate patterns of what stays the same and what changes over time.	Evaluate the trustworthiness and bias of multiple sources to analyze patterns of what stays the same and what changes over time.
SSH.3.	Contextualization	Recognize how something happening outside of your home can affect your family.	Understand how a historical event influences continuity or change.	Understand how a historical event influences the process or nature of continuity or change.
SSH.4.	Connections	Describe a person or event from the past that is similar to your life.	Compare events in history to a current issue or event.	Hypothesize how significant historical periods influence present and future issues and events.
SSH.5.	Perspective	Understand that two people can talk about an event from different viewpoints.	Apply historical perspectives to describe different viewpoints of current and past events.	Evaluate historical perspective to create arguments with evidence concerning current events.
SSH.6.	Current Implications	Explain how something from the past can affect your life now.	Explain how historical events have possible implications on the present.	Evaluate and justify predictions of potential outcomes of current events based on the past.

SSP.

Social Studies: Political Science

		K-2	3-5	6-8
SSP. Social Studies: Political Science				
SSP.1.A.	American Democracy	Understand traditions that identify our state and country.	Understand majority rule and minority rights.	Understand how the Preamble and Bill of Rights protects freedoms and rights.
SSP.1.B.		Understand why rules and laws are important.	Understand that laws are based on the Constitution.	Understand the interdependence of the three branches of government on the Constitution (e.g., checks and balances).
SSP.2.A.	Origins of U.S. Government	Identify historical figures who influenced the foundation of the United States.	Identify the Founding Fathers and their role in the development of the U.S. Government.	Identify the Founding Fathers and understand their role in the development of the principles of the Constitution.
SSP.2.B.			Understand contributions to the development of political culture.	Understand how government documents and court decisions affect the general welfare.
SSP.3.	Human and Civil Rights	Compare rights and responsibilities within the classroom, school, and community.	Understand the rights and responsibilities to people found in the Constitution.	Understand the limits of individual rights and protections found in the Constitution.
SSP.4.	Human and Civil Liberties	Identify basic rights that all humans have.	Identify people and their actions have influenced basic human and civil liberties.	Understand the impact of individuals, groups, and movements on the development of human and civil liberties for different groups.

		K-2	3-5	6-8
SSP. Social Studies: Political Science				
SSP.5.	Fundamentals of Citizenship	Identify what makes a good citizen.	Develop an opinion about an issue in your school and community based on the responsibilities of good citizenship.	Understand the skills necessary to participate in the election process (e.g., registering to vote, evaluating candidates and issues, casting a ballot).
SSP.6.	Government Participation	Describe and explain the effect an action has on members of a group.	Identify reasons why citizens participate in government.	Evaluate solutions to increase participation in government.
SSP.7.	Government & Media Awareness	Identify different types of media and sources that inform the public.	Identify how media influences public opinions.	Evaluate the trustworthiness and bias of multiple sources to analyze patterns of what is true and untrue in political action.
SSP.8.	Power in Government	Recognize the roles government plays in the lives of people.	Understand the basic structure, functions and powers of government.	Analyze the structure, functions, powers, and limitations of government.
SSP.9.	Public Policy	Understand that there are different ways to solve a problem.	Compare and contrast how various government entities solve problems.	Evaluate the effectiveness of public policy actions and processes.
SSP.10.	Argumentation	Compare and contrast points of view on the same topic.	Form an argument by taking multiple points of view into account.	Create arguments by researching and interpreting claims and counterclaims.
SSP.11.	Consensus Building	Understand how to compromise.	Understand the factors that influence how political groups work towards consensus.	Analyze the effects of a political compromise or an absence of a political compromise with major historical impact.