

2nd Grade Social Studies Curriculum

The Local Community

Grade Level Goal

In alignment with the State of Michigan standards, second students explore the history, geography, civics, government, and economics. Incorporating prior knowledge with Catholic Social Teaching, students come to an understanding of their increasing complex social environment. The second grade content expectations for the diocese prepare students for more sophisticated studies of the local community.

September

Unit Title	Purposes of Government
Big Ideas	American government is needed to protect the rights of the people.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why do we need a government?• What are some things that the government does with our tax money?• What are some of the rights that people have as American citizens?
Skills/ Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Explain why people form governments.✓ Describe some of the rights American citizens have. (i.e. right to education, religious freedom, free speech, right to vote, innocent until proven guilty)
GLEC	C1.0.1, C1.0.2
Catholic Social Teachings	Called to Live in a Family and Community Rights and Responsibilities Dignity of the Human Person

September

Unit Title	Structure and Functions of Government
Big Ideas	Local government makes, enforces and interprets laws.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some laws that local government enforces? • How are laws made? • What do local governments do to make our lives better? • What are some services provided by local government?
Skills/ Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Give examples of how local governments make, enforce, and interpret laws (ordinances) in the local community. ✓ Use examples to describe how local government affects the lives of its citizens. ✓ Identify services commonly provided by local governments. (i.e. police, fire departments, schools, libraries, parks)
GLEC	C3.0.1, C3.0.2, C3.0.3
Catholic Social Teachings	Called to Live in a Family and Community Rights and Responsibility

October

Unit Title	Values and Principals of American Democracy
Big Ideas	Government works democratically for the common good of the people.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are services local government provides? • What do the words of the Pledge of Allegiance mean? • What do the words of the national Anthem mean?
Skills/ Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Explain how local governments balance individual rights with the common good to solve local community problems ✓ Describe how the Pledge of Allegiance reflects the core democratic value of patriotism.
GLEC	C2.0.1, C2.0.2
Catholic Social Teachings	Called to Live in a Family and Community Dignity of the Human Person

November

Unit Title	Living and Working Together in Communities
Big Ideas	Our past influences the future of our community.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What events were highlighted on your timeline? • Can you determine historical events by looking at a timeline? • Why would two people explain the same event differently? • How can one person have a positive or negative effect on an event? • How has your local community changed over the years? • What was a local community problem? How was it solved? • What was our community like a long time ago?
Skills/ Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Demonstrate chronological thinking by distinguishing among years and decades using a timeline of local community events. ✓ Explain why descriptions of the same event in the local community can be different. ✓ Use an example to describe the role of the individual in creating history. ✓ Describe changes in the local community over time. ✓ Identify a problem in a community's past and describe how it was resolved. ✓ Construct a historical narrative about the history of the local community from a variety of sources.
GLEC	H2.0.1, H2.0.2, H2.0.3, H2.0.3, H2.0.4, H2.0.5, H2.0.6
Catholic Social Teachings	Called to Live in a Family and Community

December

Unit Title	Human Systems
Big Ideas	Human activities shape communities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the land type determine goods and services of the community? • What type of transportation do we use for various goods in different communities? • What are your family traditions at home? • Do have any favorite ethnic foods? • Have you ever been to an ethnic festival?
Skills/ Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Describe land use in the community (where people live, where products are made). ✓ Describe the means people create for moving people, goods, and ideas within the local community. ✓ Use components of culture to describe diversity in the local community. ✓ Describe your experience at an ethnic festival.
GLEC	G4.0.1, G4.0.2, G4.0.3
Catholic Social Teachings	Called to Live in a Family and Community Life and Dignity of the Human Person

January

Unit Title	The World in Spatial Terms
Big Ideas	Maps are used to describe spatial organization of communities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What information do we get from looking at a map key? • What is the purpose of a compass rose? • What do you use to measure distance on a map? • What direction would you travel to get from City A to City B?
Skills/ Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Construct maps of the local community that contain symbols, labels, and legends denoting human and natural characteristics of place. ✓ Use maps to describe the spatial organization of the local community by applying concepts including relative location and using distance, direction, and scale.
GLEC	G1.0.1, G1.0.2
Catholic Social Teachings	Care of God's Creation

February

Unit Title	Places and Regions
Big Ideas	Regions are created from common physical and human characteristics.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the different types of landforms and bodies of water? • What are the continents and oceans? • How are landforms in our community different/similar than another community? • What kind of community do you live in? (i.e. rural, urban, suburb) • What kind of man-made/natural objects do you see in your community? • What is your city, county, state, and country (nation)?
Skills/ Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Describe different types of landforms and bodies of water. ✓ Identify and label the continents and oceans. ✓ Compare the physical and human characteristics of the local community with those of another community. ✓ Describe how the local community is part of a larger region.
GLEC	G2.0.1, G2.0.2
Catholic Social Teachings	Called to Live in a Family and Community Care of God's Creation Solidarity

February

Unit Title	Environment and Society
Big Ideas	Changes we make to the environment influence our community.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do we recycle? • What types of things do we recycle? • How can we care for God's creation? • What are the pros and cons for cutting down trees and building houses or businesses?
Skills/ Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Identify ways people can responsible interact with the environment in the local community. ✓ Describe the positive and negative consequences of changing the physical environment of the local community.
GLEC	G5.0.1, G5.0.2
Catholic Social Teachings	Called to Live in a Family and Community Care of God's Creation Rights and Responsibilities

March

Unit Title	Roles of the Citizen in American Democracy
Big Ideas	Personal and civic responsibilities are important to community life.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do citizens participate in community decisions? • What steps do we take to make informed decisions? • What are some personal responsibilities? • What are some civic responsibilities? • What improvement project can we do to make our community a better place?
Skills/ Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Describe personal responsibilities that affect you. (i.e. homework, chores, etc.) ✓ Describe civic responsibilities that affect others, which are laws. ✓ Identify ways citizens participate in community decisions. ✓ Distinguish between personal and civic responsibilities and explain why they are important in community life. ✓ Design and participate in community improvement projects that help or inform others.
GLEC	C5.0.1, C5.0.2, C5.0.3
Catholic Social Teachings	Called to Live in a Family and Community Rights and Responsibility

April

Unit Title	Market Economy
Big Ideas	Our needs and wants are supplied by an economy based on supply and demand.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some important things to remember when choosing a product to purchase? • What are some businesses in the local community? • How do businesses meet needs and wants of the community? • What are the natural, human and capital resources (money) needed for production of a good or service in a community? • What are some examples of things we use that others need to make for us? (i.e. shoes, cars, TV) • How do we depend on others to meet our needs and wants?
Skills/ Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Identify the opportunity cost involved in a consumer decision. ✓ Identify businesses in the local community. ✓ Describe how businesses in the local community meet economic wants of consumers. ✓ Describe the natural, human, and capital resources needed for production of a good or service in a community. ✓ Use examples to show that people cannot produce everything they want (specialization) and depend on trade with others to meet their wants.
GLEC	E1.0.1, E1.0.2, E1.0.3, E1.0.4, E1.0.5
Catholic Social Teachings	Called to Live in a Family and Community Dignity and Rights of Workers

May

Unit Title	Identifying and Analyzing Public Issues
Big Ideas	People need to democratically resolve community issues.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are public issues in the local community that influence its citizens? (i.e. library mileage, traffic signs, signals, bike trails, parks) • What are some alternate resolutions to solve community issues? • What graphic tools did we use to get this information? • What are some examples of how we solve problems when people have different opinions based on their needs or wants?
Skills/ Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Identify public issues in the local community that influence the daily lives of its citizens. ✓ Use graphic data and other sources to analyze information about a public issue in the local community and evaluate alternative resolutions. ✓ Give examples of how conflicts over core democratic values lead people to differ on resolutions to a public policy issue in the local community.
GLEC	PS1.0.1, PS1.0.2, PS1.0.3
Catholic Social Teachings	Called to Live in a Family and Community Dignity and Rights of Workers Rights and Responsibilities Solidarity

May

Unit Title	Citizen Involvement
Big Ideas	Good citizenship involves participating in community projects.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we address or inform others about a public issue? • What is our action plan to help with issue? • How did we participate in the project?
Skills/ Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Develop and implement an action plan to address or inform others about a public issue. ✓ Participate in projects to help or inform others.
GLEC	P4.2.1, P4.2.2
Catholic Social Teachings	Called to Live in a Family and Community Rights and Responsibilities Solidarity

May

Unit Title	Persuasive Communication About a Public Issue
Big Ideas	Communication is important in deciding on positions regarding public issues.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How would you write a statement expressing how you feel about an issue in our local community? • How would you explain your position?
Skills/ Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Write a statement expressing how you feel about an issue in our local community. ✓ Explain your position.
GLEC	P3.3.1
Catholic Social Teachings	Called to Live in a Family and Community Rights and Responsibilities Solidarity