

Kindergarten Social Studies Curriculum

Myself & Others

Grade Level Goal

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

September

Unit Title	Role of the Citizen in American
Big Ideas	We show good citizenship by being responsible and following the rules.
Essential Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What kind of jobs do you do at home?• What are our home/ school rules?• Why do we take turns?• What are some jobs in your community?• What do you want to be when you grow up?
Skills/ Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Describe situations in which they demonstrate self-discipline and individual responsibility.✓ List the kind of jobs you do at home.✓ Name home/ school rules.✓ Describe why we take turns.✓ List jobs in the community. (i.e. policemen, firemen, teacher, bus driver, etc.)✓ Identify jobs you what to do when you grow up.
GLCE	C5.0.1
Catholic Social Teachings	Called to Live in a Family and Community

October

Unit Title	Places & Regions
Big Ideas	Maps and globes represent places.
Essential Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How do you distinguish between water and land on a map and globe?• What tools can we use to locate a place?• Where are the seven continents?
Skills/ Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Identify land and water on a map or globe.✓ Select a map or globe as a way to locate a place.✓ Identify the seven continents.
GLCE	G1.0.1
Catholic Social Teachings	Care of God's Creation

October

Unit Title	The World in Spatial Terms
Big Ideas	Directions help us to locate places.
Essential Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where can we look to find a certain object? • Is it below or above my head? • How do you give simple directions?
Skills/ Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Use environmental directions or positional words (up/down, above/below, in/out) to identify significant locations in the classroom. ✓ Give simple directions using a neighborhood map.
GLCE	G1.0.2
Catholic Social Teachings	Care of God's Creation

November/ December

Unit Title	Living and Working Together
Big Ideas	Historical thinking helps us to understand the past.
Essential Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What makes you special? • What are the days of the week? • What happened yesterday, today, tomorrow? • What do we know about the past?
Skills/ Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Describe characteristics that make you special. (i.e. faith, ethnic background, family, birth order, etc.) ✓ Distinguish among yesterday, today, tomorrow. ✓ Create a timeline using events from their own lives (e.g., birth, crawling, walking, loss of first tooth, first day of school). ✓ Identify the beginning, middle, and end of historical narratives or stories. ✓ Describe ways people learn about the past (e.g., photos, artifacts, diaries, stories, videos).
GLCE	H2.0.1, H2.0.2, H2.0.3, H2.0.4
Catholic Social Teachings	The Dignity of the Human Person

January

Unit Title	Environment & Society
Big Ideas	We meet our basic needs and wants through our environment.
Essential Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do we see or do in a classroom, playground, home? • What do we do to meet our needs and wants?
Skills/ Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Identify and describe places in the immediate environment. (i.e. classroom, home, playground) ✓ Describe situations in which they demonstrate self-discipline and individual responsibility.
GLCE	G2.0.1, G5.0.1
Catholic Social Teachings	Called to Live in a Family and Community Care of God's Creation Right and Responsibilities

February

Unit Title	Market Economy
Big Ideas	Wants and needs are provided by trading either goods, services, or money.
Essential Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you get money to get the things you want? • What are some things you want? • What kind of jobs provide services? • What are some examples of goods you buy from a store? • What kind of items have you traded?
Skills/ Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Describe economic wants they have experienced. ✓ Distinguish between goods and services. ✓ Recognize situations in which people trade.
GLCE	E1.0.1, E1.0.2, E1.0.3
Catholic Social Teachings	Called to Live in a Family and Community Dignity and Rights of Workers Right and Responsibilities

March

Unit Title	Values and Principles of American Democracy
Big Ideas	Symbols and rules are important to American Democracy
Essential Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What colors are our country's flag? • What does the flag symbolize? • Why do we have to have rules? • Why can't we do whatever we want? • What is a fair way to solve a problem?
Skills/ Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ List the colors of the American flag. ✓ Identify our country's flag as an important symbol of the United States. ✓ Explain why people do not have the right to do whatever they want (i.e. to promote fairness, ensure the common good, and maintain safety). ✓ Describe fair ways for groups to make decisions.
GLCE	C2.0.1, C2.0.2, C2.0.3
Catholic Social Teachings	Called to Live in a Family and Community Dignity and Rights of Workers Right and Responsibilities

April

Unit Title	Identify, Analyze and Communicate Position on Public Issues
Big Ideas	When we have problems, we identify the problem, state our beliefs and work towards a solution.
Essential Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some classroom problems? • When we explore a graph, how can we tell who or what had the most votes? • Why did you vote the way you did?
Skills/ Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Identify classroom issues. ✓ Use simple graphs to explain information about a classroom issue. ✓ Compare their viewpoint about a classroom issue with the viewpoint of another person.
GLCE	P3.1.1, P3.1.2, P3.1.3
Catholic Social Teachings	Called to Live in a Family and Community Right and Responsibilities

May

Unit Title	Citizen Involvement
Big Ideas	We have a responsibility to help others that are in need.
Essential Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can you help a friend in need? • Why do we help those in need?
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.
GLCE	P4.2.1, P4.2.2
Catholic Social Teachings	Called to Live in a Family and Community Right and Responsibilities Option for the Poor and Vulnerable