

Social Studies Curriculum

Grade Level: 1st Grade

Focus: Neighborhood/Community Civic Responsibility/Local Government

Time Frame: August/September/October

Illinois Learning Standards:

14A: Understand and explain the basic principals of the United States government.

14B: Understand the structures and functions of the political systems of Illinois, the United States and other nations.

14C: Understand election processes and responsibilities of citizens.

14D: Understand the roles and influences of individuals and interest groups in the political systems of Illinois, the United States and other nations.

14F: Understand development of United States political ideas and traditions.

Essential Question(s):

1. Who are the leaders in your school?
2. Who are the leaders in your community?
3. How did they become leaders?
4. Why do we need leaders?

Understandings:

1. Students will understand the mechanics of the balloting system.
2. Students will understand that rules and laws protect our safety.
3. Students will understand the characteristics of good citizenship.
4. Students will understand the roles of civic leaders.

The Student Will Be Able To:

1. Identify the leader of the school, their community, and country.
2. Demonstrate an understanding that community leaders are elected by the people they serve.
3. Demonstrate an understanding that leaders help enforce the laws of society.

Social Studies Curriculum

Grade Level: 1st Grade

Focus: Neighborhood/Community Economics

Time Frame: October/November/December

Illinois State Standards:

15A: Understand how different economic systems operate in the exchange, production, distribution and consumption of goods and services.

15B: Understand the scarcity necessitates choices by consumers.

15D: Understand trade as an exchange of goods or services.

Essential Question:

1. How are people affected by the economics around them?

Understandings:

1. Students will understand the importance of saving.
2. Students will understand that sometimes choices have to be made between what families need and what families want.
3. Students will understand that a system of trade is necessary to obtain goods and services.

The Student Will Be Able To:

1. Make good consumer choices.
2. Recognize the connection of what they learn to their future employment opportunities.
3. Distinguish the difference between a want and a need.

Social Studies Curriculum

Grade Level: 1st Grade

Focus: Neighborhood/Community/Community Helpers/Civic Responsibility

Time Frame: December/January/February

Illinois Learning Standards:

- 14D: Understand the roles and influences of individuals and interest groups in the political systems of Illinois, the United States and other nations.
- 15A: Understand how different economic systems operate in the exchange, production, distribution and consumption of goods and services
- 15C: Understand that scarcity necessitates choices by producers.
- 15E: Understand the impact of government policies and decisions on production and consumption in the economy.
- 16C: Understand the development of economics systems.

Essential Question:

1. How do communities provide for families?

Understandings:

1. Students will understand the different departments that operate in their communities, i.e. police, and fire, paramedics, water department, building department.
2. Students will understand that these departments sometimes work together to solve community problems.

The Student Will Be Able To:

1. Recognize that there are people in the community that have different jobs.
2. Identify the people in the community that provide services to help families solve problems.
3. Identify the people in their communities that help in an emergency.
4. Understand that community workers interact.

Social Studies Curriculum

Grade Level: 1st Grade

Focus: Global/Geography/Map Skills

Time Frame: March/April/May/June

Illinois Learning Standards:

17A: Locate, describe and explain places, regions and features on the Earth.

17B: Analyze and explain characteristics and interactions of the Earth's physical systems

17C: Understand relationships between geographic factors and society.

Essential Questions:

1. How can geography help us understand our Earth?

Understandings:

1. Students will understand that cardinal directions are used to locate places.
2. Students will understand that symbols can represent an important part of a communities' or nations' history.
3. Students will understand the importance of taking care of our environment.

The Student Will Be Able To:

1. Identify cardinal directions (N,S,E,W).
2. Identify a patriotic symbol the United States (e.g., eagle flag, White House).
3. Identify ways people depend on and interact with the physical environment.