

***SOCIAL STUDIES
CURRICULUM GUIDELINES
GRADES K – 8***

***DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON
SOUTH CAROLINA***

REVISED 2010

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INTRODUCTION

The subject of Social Studies is not merely the study of the human race over time. Rather, it is the examination of the story of humankind integrated with a historical perspective of people, places and situations coupled with the dimensions of geographical environments, Civics and Political Science, Economics, Sociology, and Cultural and Physical Anthropology.

This revision of the Social Studies Curriculum was enhanced by reference to *The Ten Themes* of the National Council of Social Studies, *The Seven Catholic Social Principles*, *The South Carolina Education Standards for Social Studies*, and the preceding diocesan *Social Studies Guide*..

The format of this curriculum has been developed in standard form. Whereby, for the purposes of this guide the standard is designated the content standard and determines everything a student should know and be able to do. The indicators are performance standards which determine how much students should know and be able to do concerning a specific area or topic.

In conclusion, standards shape what goes into a curriculum and indicators set benchmarks for specific levels of achievement. All standards can be used as a guide in the selection of textbooks and forms of assessment.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the leadership and staff of the Catholic Schools Office for their guidance and assistance:

Sister Julia Hutchison, Superintendent
Sandra Leatherwood, Assistant Superintendent
Kim Hopkins, Administrative Assistant

Thank you to all the principals who gave release time to their teachers to serve on the Social Studies Curriculum, and to St. Joseph School, Columbia for hosting the meetings of this committee.

And lastly, thank you to the dedicated teachers of the Diocese of Charleston who served on the Social Studies Committee for 2010 curriculum revision.

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THE TEN NCSS THEMES/CONCEPTUAL STANDARDS

It has been recommended by the National Council of Social Studies that Social Studies curriculums should include the following :

- 1. CULTURE Experiences that provide for the study of culture and diversity**
- 2. TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE...Experiences that provide for the study of the ways human beings view themselves in and over time**
- 3. PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS...Experiences that provide for the study of people, places and environments**
- 4. INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AND IDENTITY...Experiences that provide for the study of individual development**
- 5. INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS...Experiences that provide for the study of interactions among individuals, groups, and institutions**
- 6. POWER, AUTHORITY, AND GOVERNANCE...Experiences that provide for the study of how people create, interact with, and change structures of power, authority, and governance**
- 7. PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND CONSUMPTION... Experiences that provide for the study of how people organize for the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services**
- 8. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY...Experiences that provide for the study of relationships among science, technology, and society**

- 9. GLOBAL CONNECTIONS...Experience that provide for the study of global connections and interdependence**

- 10. CIVIC IDEALS AND PRACTICES...Experiences that provide for the study of the ideals, principles, and practices of citizenship in a democratic process**

**SEVEN MAJOR THEMES OR PRINCIPLES
OF
CATHOLIC DOCTRINE**
(APPROVED 6/19/98 BY THE USCCB)

CATHOLIC SOCIAL PRINCIPLES

1. LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

Belief in sanctity of life and the dignity of persons

2. CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND PARTICIPATION

Right and duty to participate in all activities of society

3. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Preservation of human rights with personal and social responsibilities

4. OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

Priority given to the needs of the poor and the vulnerable

5. DIGNITY OF WORK AND THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS

Respect for the right to work as co-creators with God

6. SOLIDARITY

Responsibility for one another by committing to the common good in a global world

7. CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

Living faith in relationship with all God's creation

SOURCE: *Today's Catholic Teacher*, "Catholic Social Principles: Life and Dignity of the Human Person" by Kay Klacker, ED.D
October 2008