



Dominican International School
台北市私立道明外僑學校
No. 76, Dazhi Street, Taipei (104042), Taiwan, R.O.C.
10464 臺北市中山區大直街 76 號



COURSE SYLLABUS

School Year	2025-2026
Subject	Social Studies
Grade Level	2
Teacher	Mr. Charles Marks
Email	cmarks@dishs.tp.edu.tw

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The second grade Social Studies curriculum introduces children to the geography, history, government, and economy of the United States through the school's adapted American curriculum, which is in line with Core Common States Standards (CCSS). The subject area is also specifically adapted to help the learners to discover their own local community (i.e., the city, village, or township in which their school is located), as well as national and continent-wide cultures and issues. Ensuring learners are able to relate to the subject and content, and to create autonomous and lifelong learners, the students are encouraged to develop and share the many individual cultures that they bring to our classroom. Many projects, classwork and homework assignments will give learners the opportunity to share their own personal and relevant learning experiences.

The children learn about people and events from the past that have shaped the United States of America, as well as those of the local community and that of our neighboring nations. With an emphasis on map skills, students will study the geography of the community, its connections to neighboring communities and the world beyond. They will begin to explore how people make a living in their local community and how goods and services move in and out of the local area and internationally as well. Students will have a good glimpse and a meaningful experience about the beauty of the differences, the complexities, diversities of the people and places of the world. Thus, the goal of this course is to let students appreciate and respect the different people, places and cultures of the world



COURSE OBJECTIVES: By the end of the semester/school year, students will be able to:

First Quarter

- Define and identify *cities, suburbs, towns, relative location, absolute location, symbol, compass rose, historian, geography, globe, equator, latitude, longitude, legend, symbol, scale, compass rose, bar graph, flow chart, primary source, journal, artifact, architecture, secondary source, biography, autobiography, historian, immigrant, generation, tradition, ancestor, vocabulary, family, community, respect, responsible, extended family, citizen, guardian, practice, history, ancestor, culture, compare and contrast.*
- Learn how to use globes and maps.
- Learn how to read, make, and understand charts and graphs.
- Learn the keys to writing better.
- Find better ways to use the library, the Internet, and our online platforms.
- Understand the difference between a primary and secondary source.
- Identify key changes in history.
- Identify differences between your immediate and extended family.
- Identify ways we can show respect and responsibility.
- Learn about immigration and citizenship.
- Identify traditions in our families and communities.
- Make a timeline.
- Learn about our ancestors and cultures.
- Write a sequential paragraph.
- Study our separate family histories.
- Be able to say and write your absolute and relative location.

Second Quarter

- Define and identify *geographer, landform, model, migrate, harbor, evidence, urban, suburb, weather, environment, rural, natural resource, renewable, conserve, technology and transportation*
- Recognize that the world is divided into different areas politically, such as states, countries and continents.
- Recognize that people change the environment to meet their needs and how geographical characteristics such as weather, climate and location can influence people's decision about how and where to live.
- Identify and categorize renewable and nonrenewable resources.
- Describe why people in countries trade goods and services.
- Identify that community members contribute to the community in different ways and describe why the diversity in communities contributes to the richness of our culture.

Third Quarter



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- Define *citizen, law, court, consequence, constitution, Congress, vote, represent, tax, Supreme Court, respect, responsible, government, independence, freedom, colony, document, trade, peace, conflict and rights*.
- Identify and describe characteristics of good citizenship.
- Describe ways in which citizens make positive contributions to their school and community, taking responsibility for personal actions, respecting and being fair with others, and being honest.
- Identify rules and laws and describe their purpose in school, community, and society.
- Define government and describe its purpose.
- Explain the function of a government and why it's formed.
- Describe government services and how they meet the needs of citizens in a community.
- Identify government leaders and their role in a community, state, and nation.
- Describe how leaders are chosen, such as by election and appointment to office.
- Describe why the Declaration of Independence was written.
- Identify symbols and songs that reflect democracy and freedom.
- Identify historical figures and events that we celebrate.

Fourth Quarter

- Define *history, monument, explorer, settler, immigrant, freedom, vote, pioneer, ancient, invention, civil rights, innovator needs, wants, resource, cost, goods, producer, consumer, skill, trade, savings, borrow, symbol, continent, ocean, barter, wants/needs, choice, purchase, scarce, harvest, natural, distributors, markets, process, sequence, weather, drought, climate, irrigation, source, landform and loan*.
- Recognize that everyone has basic human needs of food, clothing, and shelter as well as different wants.
- Understand that individuals, families, and communities must make choices due to limited resources.
- Trace the production of goods from natural resource to finished product in the market available to customers.
- Explain how producers decide what to produce based on needs and wants of consumers and the benefits of what they produce to consumers
- Identify services people depend on in their communities, such as people who provide transportation, safety, education, and health.
- Recognize that people can use money to exchange goods and services, and that money makes the exchange easier.
- Explain 'Supply and Demand' concepts.
- Compare and contrast life and family life in the past with life today.
- Make predictions about changes in the future.
- Compare Native American cultures from different regions
- Compare life in the past to life today
- Identify the key people and events that shaped America and how, over time the United States grew in size.
- Compare life in the past to today and discuss that some things change while others stay the same.
- Identify contributions of innovators and identify technological innovations that shaped the United States.
- Identify historical figures who exemplify admirable character traits.



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PRIMARY TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER RESOURCES:

Pearson *My World Interactive 2*

A Social Studies notebook with our class name and your name must be with you during every class. This will be collected and graded quarterly. Use this notebook, your textbook, and any handouts to review, prepare for assessments and work on projects. If you run out of paper in your notebook (or lose it), please replace it promptly.

Highlighter, pencils (no mechanical pencils or erasable pens), and erasers

You will receive a username and password to use the online resources for our book. Please use it how you deem fit for supplementary material and support content. Let me know if you have any questions about the online resources or have trouble logging in.

Raz Plus and Britannica School are our online research and reading platforms. These websites can be easily accessed through the “QLinks” tab on the homepage of the DIS website. I may occasionally assign you books to read through this platform or ask you to prepare for projects with these resources.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/RESOURCES:

Please see Google Classroom for more information. I will also keep you updated of our class content with links to videos, which we may or may not have already watched in class.

Announcements will also be made regularly on Google Classroom for special tasks and projects, which need to be prepared for and completed. Homework will be posted regularly, and late homework receives a one-point deduction.

GRADING SYSTEM/ASSESSMENT:

Students will be assessed with class participation/behavior, i.e., deportment, observation, homework, class work, notebook work, quizzes/tests (including pop quizzes), oral responses, collaborative learning and individual projects and quarterly exams. Apart from deportment (10%), the student's final grade will be computed mainly based on three parts: performance tasks (homework and class work), quizzes and quarterly exams (project or test). Each part is weighted at one third of the total course grade.

Quizzes, assessments and projects will relate to current and previous topics. These may be given at any time during any class period—immediately after a whole class guided instruction, at the beginning or end of a class, etc. Students absent from class for a test or a quiz will be required to take the quiz or test some other time arranged with the teacher as soon as possible in class.

30% Classwork, Homework, Class participation

30% Quizzes

30% Quarterly Exams

10% Deportment (behavior in class based on the school's SLOs –
truthful, organized, courageous, reflective, helpful)



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It is very important that all work is completed to the learners' best abilities. Often much of the vocabulary for this particular subject area can be challenging, especially for English Language Learners (EAL), therefore support and guidance through parents and caregivers is encouraged throughout. Many learners may find it beneficial to be able to discuss the topics in their native or first language. All of this support is essential in helping learners to construct their own understanding and knowledge of social studies.

CLASS RULES

- Students should follow the specific instructions and rules set forth for each class, project, and assessment.
- Homework received late will receive a one-point deduction.
- It is the responsibility of absent and tardy students to make up any missed work. Please inform the teacher ahead of time if you know you will be absent. We can make any necessary arrangements.
- Failure to follow class rules and instructions will affect your department score, grade, and eligibility to receive honors recognition.
- Not bringing the textbook or notebook to class results in deduction in department grade.
- No mechanical pencils.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic Dishonesty means employing a method or technique or engaging in conduct in an academic endeavor that contravenes the standards of ethical integrity expected at DIS.

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to the following:

- Purposely incorporating the ideas, words of sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof without appropriate acknowledgment and representing the product as one's work;
- Representing another's intellectual work, such as photographs, paintings, drawings, sculpture, research, or the like, as one's own, including failure to attribute content to an AI.
- Employing a tutor, using Artificial Intelligence without acknowledgment, getting a parent to write a paper or do an assignment, and paying for an essay to be written by someone else and presented as the student's work.
- Committing any act that a reasonable person would conclude, when informed of the evidence, to be a dishonest means of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work.

Any act of academic dishonesty will result in an automatic zero on the entire assignment/learning task.

First Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
Week 1	<u>Map and Graph Skills Handbook</u> • Class rules and expectations



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(August 12 to 15) 4 days of class 12-General Assembly at the Gymnasium 15-Opening Mass & Assumption of Our Lady	Using globes, maps, and information
Week 2 (August 18 to 22) 18-St. Dominic de Guzman Feast Day Celebration) Integrated during the Monday Assembly 20- House Shirt & Blue Jeans Day Starts 22- Club Orientation and Club Sign-up	Map and Graph Skills Handbook - Using globes, maps, and information - Using the Library and Online Resources
Week 3 (August 25 to 29) 27- High School Talk - "Kickstart Your Success: Winning Mindsets for a Great School Year" 29- First Club Meeting	Chapter 1 Families Today and in the Past Lesson 1: Families - What Does Family Mean to You? - What Is a community? - Why is Learning About Family Important?
Week 4 (September 1 to 5) 1- Launching of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (During the Monday Assembly) 1-AP Registration 3- AEO Fall University Fair 5- House Ceremony	Lesson 2: Different Kinds of Families - What Makes a Family? - How Are Families Organized? - Immigrant Families - How Families Are Similar Map and Graph Skills: Interpret Timelines
Week 5 (September 8 to 12) 8- Holy Mass: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary & VIP Induction 10- House Mini Games Start	Lesson 3 Life Then and Now - You Have a Past - Your Family Has a Past - Families Then and Now Literacy Skills: Sequence Writing
Week 6 (September 15 to 19) 15- Catholic Bridge Program for all New Students (After the Monday Assembly at the Gymnasium) 19- Athletics / Sports Orientation 19- PSAT/NMSQT Registration deadline	Lesson 4 Family History - Different Kinds of Sources - Learn About Your Family's History
Week 7 (September 22 to 26) 22- Celebration of the International Day of Peace-Peace Pole Ceremony (During the Monday Assembly) Teacher's Day Celebration &	Q1 Project



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26-Teachers' Appreciation 26- Grade 12 Career Educational Trip 24 to 26-Pre-Exam Days	
Week 8 (September 29 to October 3) 29- Launching of the Month of the Holy Rosary (During the Monday Assembly) Oct. 1-2- First Quarter Exam (half day)	Q1 Exam Project
<i>Oct. 3-DIS Teachers and Staff Recognition Day/ Record Day Recollection for Aunties and Uncles (no classes for students)</i>	

Second Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
<i>6-Moon Festival (no classes)</i>	
<i>7-9 Teacher's Conference (no classes)</i>	
Week 1 (11) (October 13 to 17) 13- Second Quarter Begins 13- Start of New Applicant Enrollment for 2nd Semester 14- Visit of Mother Mary to Classrooms (During the morning prayer) 15- AP Exam Only Registration Deadline 15- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 17- PSAT/NMSQT Digital Exam	Chapter 2: People, Places and Nature Chapter 2: Introduction – The BIG Question, Vocabulary Preview Lesson 1: Use Maps to Locate Places ○ What is the difference between relative and absolute location? ○ Use a map scale to estimate the distance between two places on a map
Week 2 (12) (October 20 to 24) 20- Jubilee: Marian Exhibit Opening (After the Monday Assembly) 20- Campus Safety Talk for Students 24- Book Fair (Senior Escape Room)	Lesson 2: Earth's Land and Water ○ Landforms, bodies of water ○ A map of North America ○ Earth's shape
Week 3 (13) (October 27 to 31) 29- Grade 11 Career Educational Trip Oct. 31 to Nov. 1- Gr.6 SEL Camp	Lesson 3: Where People Live ○ Why and how people move ○ Traveling to America



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Week 4 (14) (November 3 to 7) 3- Feast of St. Martin de Porres Mass (integrated during the Monday Assembly) 5- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep	Lesson 4: Our Communities and Resources ○ Urban and suburban environment ○ Why is important for some workers to have special skills? ○ Identify the main idea and details in paragraph (pp. 68-69)
Week 5 (15) (November 10 to 14) 14- Health Week 14- VIP-Parent Learning Community	Chapter 3 Government Chapter 3: Introduction – The BIG Question, Vocabulary Preview Lesson 1: Citizens Follow Rules and Laws
Week 6 (16) (November 17 to 21) 17- Launching of Mental Health and Anti-Bullying Month 21- Young Shakespeare Play Writing and Performing Contest	Lesson 2 Our Government ● What is a government? ● President ● Congress ● Supreme Court 3 Branches of the US Government
Week 7 (17) (November 24 to 28) 24- Peace Pole Day (Monday Assembly) 24- Lighting of the Christmas Tree after school (Campus Min/ ECA/ D' Torch Orchestra/ Religious Studies) (Afternoon) 25-27- Pre-Exam Days 27- Thanksgiving Potluck after school for teachers and staff 27- Thanksgiving Family Day 28- Gr. 12 Second Quarter Exam	Lesson 2 Our Government ● What is a government? ● President ● Congress ● Supreme Court 3 Branches of the US Government
<i>Nov. 29 Invitation for All: The Jubilee Pilgrimage to Taipei (Saturday)</i>	
Week 8 (18) (December 1 to 5) 1- First Week of Advent: Lighting of First Advent Candle (During the Monday Assembly) 3- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 5- Nativity Play (Collaboration with Campus Ministry) 5- Christmas Fair Whole Day	Quarter 2 Exam Project
Week 9 (19) (December 8 to 12) 8- Foundation Day Mass, cake ceremony, and Class Party (half day) 8- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 8- Second Week of Advent 10- Gr. 12 Advent Immersion 11 and 12- Second Quarter Exam	Quarter 2 Exam Project



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(half day)

December 13 Invitation for All: Advent Recollection @DIS (Saturday)

December 15 to January 2 Christmas Break

Third Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
<i>January 5- Record Day (No Classes for students)</i>	
Week 1 (20) (January 5 to 9) 5- PSAT 8/9 Registration Starts 6- Third Quarter Begins 7- Monthly Career Talk-College Prep 9- New Year Mass at 8:00	Lesson 3: Governments Around the World • Why Countries Need Government • The Declaration of Independence The Constitution and Bill of Rights
Week 2 (21) (January 12 to 16) 16- Club Orientation & Sign Up	Lesson 3: Governments Around the World • Why Countries Need Government • The Declaration of Independence The Constitution and Bill of Rights
Week 3 (22) (January 19 to 23) 19-23- Individual Yearbook Photoshoot for Students 19-23- Career Awareness Week 22- Grade 9 Career Educational trip 23- First Club Meeting for 2nd Semester	Lesson 4: Governments Work Together • Countries Solving Problems • The United Nations • Ways Leaders Solve Problems
Week 4 (23) (January 26 to 30) 26- Feast Day of St. Thomas Aquinas/Launching of the Catholic Week 26-28- Aquinas Conference: Science and Faith 26-30- Catholic Week Activities 30- DYM Charity Concert	<u>Chapter 4: People Who Supply Our Goods and Services</u> Chapter 4: Introduction – The BIG Question, Vocabulary Preview Lesson 1: Needs, Wants, and Choices • Needs and Wants • Getting What We Need and Want • Making Choices • Cost and Benefits
Week 5 (24) (February 2 to 6) 1-4- WASC Mid-Cycle Visit 4- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 6-7- SUAQ Recollection for MS	Lesson 2: Food Producers • Who Are Producers? • The Role of Farmers • Planting and Harvesting



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Week 6 (25) (February 9 to 13) 9- Start of New Applicant Enrollment for 1st Semester for SY2025-26 13- PSAT 8/9 Registration Deadline 13- House Valentine's Mini Fair 13- Chinese New Year Celebration	Lesson 3: Producing and Consuming Goods - Who Are Consumers? - From Farm to Market? - Flow Cart of Goods
<i>February 16-20 Chinese New Year Holiday</i>	
Week 7 (26) (February 23 to 26) 23-26- IOWA Assessments 23- Student Council Application 24-26- Pre-Exam Days	Lesson 4: Challenges Producers Face - Watching the Weather - The Land and the Climate Solving Problems
<i>February 27 Memorial Day Holiday (no classes)</i>	
Week 8 (27) (March 2 to 6) 3- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 6- PSAT 8/9 System Installation and Practice Test	Q3 Project / Exam Review
Week 9 (28) (March 9 to 13) 13 and 16- Third Quarter Exam (half day)	Q3 Exam

Fourth Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
Week 1 (29) (March 16 to 20) 16- Third Quarter Exam (half day) 16-20- Faculty & Staff Yearbook Photo 17- Fourth Quarter Begins 18-21- EARCOS Teachers' Conference 19- Lectio Divina and Feast of St. Joseph 20- Parents Learning Community Meeting 20- Kindilympics 20-House Movie Night and Club Fair	<u>Chapter 5: Making a Difference</u> Chapter 5: Introduction – The BIG Question, Vocabulary Preview Lesson 1 What Makes a Hero? Who Is a Hero?
<i>March 21 (Saturday) Spring Fair</i>	



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Week 2 (30) (March 23 to 27) 23-27 Student Leaders Applicant Interviews 26- Annual Visit to World Religion Museum Gr. 11 27- Lower School Readers Theatre	Lesson 2 Heroic Leaders Heroes Know How to Lead Abraham Lincoln, Sitting Bull, and Golda Meir
<i>March 30 to April 6 Easter/Spring Break</i>	
Week 3 (31) (April 7 to 10) 7- Spring University Fair 9- Easter Mass 9- Easter Egg Hunt for Lower School Students	Lesson 3 Heroes Who Inspire Change Heroes Work for Justice Heroes of Women's Rights Heroes of Worker's Rights Rosa Parks
Week 4 (32) (April 13 to 17) 13 Laudato Si Month Launching (During the Monday Assembly) 13-30 Laudato Si Month Activities 13-17- Class Photo Taking 17- AP Chinese/Japanese Practice Test	Lesson 4 Heroes in Science Thomas Edison Ideas that Changed the World Heroic Discoveries in Medicine
Week 5 (33) (April 20 to 24) 20-24 Cultural Awareness Week / Art Exhibit / Earth Week 24- Music Recital 20-24 Student Council Campaign 20-24 AP Mock Exams	Lesson 5 Heroic Helpers Heroes Help People A House of Hope The Red Cross Florence Nightingale
Week 6 (34) (April 27 to 30) 27- Student Council Elections 27-30 Senior Project Presentations 28-30 Pre-Exam Days	Lesson 6 How We Can Make a Difference Heroes Are All Around Us Artists and Service Workers How You Can Make a Difference, Too
<i>May 1: Labor Day Public Holiday</i>	
Week 7 (35) (May 4 to 8) 4- May Crowning & Mother's Day Celebration (During the Monday Assembly) 4-14 Final Exams (K, Gr. 5, 8, & 12 Only) 4-15 AP Exams	Q4 Exam Project
Week 8 (36) (May 11 to 15) 13 and 14- Fourth Quarter	Q4 Exam Project



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Exam—Undergraduate (half day) 14-16 Student Leaders Retreat Days	
May 15 Record Day (No Classes for students) Final Deliberation for Graduating/Promoting Classes	
Week 9 (37) (May 18 to 22) 18- Gr. 5 Recollection & Mass 19- Gr. 8 Recollection & Mass 20- Gr. 12 Recollection 20- Baccalaureate Mass (Whole School) 18-21 WIDA Testing 19- Lower School Sports Day / Gr. 6 & 7 School Field Trip 19- Gr. 9 - 11 - "Senior Success Forum: Inspiring the Next Generation" 19-22 Student Clearance Days 21- Middle & High School Sports Day 21- High School Field Trip 22- House Culminating Activity 20-22 Final Deliberation for Non-Graduating Classes 22- Student Leaders One Day Recollection / Turn Over Ceremony	End of year activities
Week 10 (38) (May 25 to 29) 25- Kindergarten Graduation/Gr. 5 Promotion 26- LS Field Trip 26- Gr. 8 Graduation and Gr. 12 Graduation 27- Pre-Kindergarten & Gr. 1 - 4, 6 & 7, 9-11 Recognition Last Day of School, Report Card 28- Distribution, & Class Party (half day) 29- Last day for Teachers/Staff Meeting	End of year activities

"Kindling the Light of Faith, Hope, and Love: The Legacy of St. Dominic de Guzmán"