

FIFTH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM

The primary focus of Social Studies in our Catholic schools is to teach students about membership in God's family. Students will develop skills enabling them to love and serve as Christ did.

Standard 1: Civics and Government

The student will:

1. Read Psalm 119:163 (I hate and abhor falsehood but I live your law.) Discuss "law" and God's laws (Commandments and Beatitudes)
2. Understand laws that must be followed by those in authority as well as those who are governed.
3. Define the rule of law as a legal principle that is easily understood and can be applied to all, including those who are rule makers.
4. Describe the principles contained in the following documents:
 - a. Declaration of Independence
 - b. Constitution of the United States
 - c. Bill of Rights
5. Compare how documents influenced the development of American constitutional government.
 - a. Magna Carta
 - b. Mayflower Compact
 - c. Articles of Confederation
6. Explain the basic ideals of the American republican system.
7. ▲ Identify important founding fathers and their contributions:
 - a. George Mason
 - b. Thomas Jefferson
 - c. James Madison
 - d. George Washington
 - e. Benjamin Franklin
 - f. Thomas Paine
 - g. Samuel Adams
 - h. John Adams
8. Define federalism as a system of government in which power is divided between national (central) and state governments as a way to distribute power by preventing a concentration of power.
9. Define the separation of power and give examples of how power is limited.
10. Describe how the United States Constitution supports the principle of majority rule, but also protects the rights of the minority.
11. ▲ Explain the functions of the three branches of federal government.
12. Identify the key ideas of the Preamble.
13. Understand that rights are personal, political and economic (e.g., personal: privacy, speech, religion; political: holding public office, voting; economic: employment, owning property).