

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies – St. Joseph Catholic School

*Social Studies is the coordinated, systematic, and integrated study of society which provides for the teaching and learning of civic competence and social understanding. Its primary purpose is to enable young people to develop life-long ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world. (NCSS)*

### **General Course Description:**

This class is part of a two-year study of world studies with a major focus on world geography, culture, and history. It is divided into Western World Studies and Eastern World Studies, although there is some overlap due to the nature of World Studies. In World Studies, students will learn basic geography skills such as map reading, interpreting thematic maps (physical feature, climate, vegetation, economic activity, and population density) and the culture and history of the peoples who inhabit our world. Emphasis is on critical thinking, cultural diversity, current events, and writing in social sciences. In the second year what is covered is a review of geography and skill building, Europe and Russia, Africa, Asia (Central and Southwest Asia and Monsoon Asia), and Oceania and Antarctica (Australia, Pacific Islands, and Antarctica). There is also a specific unit on comparative religions covering Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Sikhism, and Confucianism.

### **Standards Used:**

The standards from the National Council of Social Sciences along with the Michigan State Standards for social studies are used.

**NCSS:** <https://www.mhschool.com/socialstudies/2009/teacher/pdf/ncss.pdf>

**Michigan:** [http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753\\_64839\\_65510-337986--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753_64839_65510-337986--,00.html)

*The Archdiocese of Detroit is also working on a set of standards for social sciences that will be ready in 2017-2018.*

### **Main Goals of Class:**

- Learn the basic skills used by geographers to study the world, physically and culturally
- Develop skills in interpreting various types of thematic maps and graphs
- Work cooperatively in groups to solve a focus question on a social studies theme
- Learn how to write in social sciences an explanatory, opinion, and comparative essay
- Learn the skill of critical thinking in relationship to the global setting
- Develop skills in researching
- Develop skills in identifying reliable sources, primary sources, and secondary sources
- Develop an ability to make informed and reasoned decisions and opinions
- Research and create related projects using a variety of methods
- Identify the basic tenets of eight world religions and an appreciation and tolerance for people of other faiths as put forth by Saint Pope John Paul II

**Main Text and Resources:**

- *Geography Alive! Regions and People* Teachers' Curriculum Institute (TCI) copyright 2011 (textbook, notebook, and online subscription is used) <https://teachtci.com>
- *MobyMax* online [www.mobymax.com](http://www.mobymax.com)