

# **PETERS TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **CORE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE**

### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

#### **GRADE 2**

For each of the sections that follow, students may be required to understand, apply, analyze, evaluate or create the particular concepts being taught.

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Students will learn about political science, economics, geography, cultural studies, and history.

#### **STUDY SKILLS**

- Have the necessary materials organized for each class
- Keep and organize materials for long term projects
- Read and re-read for understanding

#### **MAJOR UNIT THEMES:**

##### **1. POLITICAL SCIENCE**

- Describe characteristics of good citizenship, and how citizens take action to improve their communities
- Describe the rights citizens have in the United States
- Identify United States documents in which the rights of citizens are guaranteed
- Identify rules and laws, and describe their purpose in school, community and society
- Identify government leaders and their roles 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 historical figures that are important to our democracy

##### **2. ECONOMICS**

- Recognize that everyone has basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter as well as wants
- Understand that families and communities make choices based on scarce resources
- read a flow chart
- Recognize that people provide services to earn income and these services can help the community
- Recognize that people can use money to exchange goods and services and that income not spent is savings

### **3. GEOGRAPHY**

- Describe relative and absolute location and use a map to locate places and features
- Identify the uses and parts of a map, and find locations on a map using cardinal and intermediate directions
- Use a map scale
- Identify the seven continents and four oceans on a map and globe using latitude, longitude and the equator as guide
- Identify physical features such as landforms and bodies of water
- Describe how weather and climate affect where and how people, plants and animals live
- Explain how people negatively and positively alter Earth's land, water and natural resources
- Describe how changes in technology and transportation affect how we move ideas and goods

### **4. CULTURAL STUDIES**

- Understand that culture is a way of life learned from your family and community
- Describe cultural characteristics such as music, food, language and art
- Compare and contrast cultures
- Identify and describe national holidays that honor the achievements of Americans
- Identify characters in American stories who demonstrate positive character traits

### **5. HISTORY**

- Compare and contrast life today to life in the past
- Read a timeline
- Identify tools for learning about history and how to differentiate between primary and secondary sources
- Recognize Native Americans as the first inhabitants of North America and compare their cultures
- Identify key people and events that shaped our country
- Know that over time our country has grown in size
- Know why immigrants came to the United States 2013

#### **MATERIALS (and Supplemental materials used in course):**

- Social Studies Book: Pearson My World
- Brainpopjr.com
- Discoveryeducation.com
- Supplemental books from school library
- District owned and approved videos and DVDs

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