

Oakwood City School District Pre-Kindergarten Social Studies

Pre-Kindergarten Social Studies

Pre-Kindergarten Course Description

The standards are designed to promote the learning and development of the "whole child." The activities build language skills, increase thinking and problem-solving abilities, develop social skills, promote large and small muscle development, and increase general knowledge in ways that help children get ready for kindergarten.

Pre-Kindergarten Inquiry and Application Standards

The Project Approach and other interest-based inquiry strategies offer teachers specific ways for children to:

- Learn about interesting, worthwhile, and real-world things in appropriate ways
- Ask questions and investigate answers
- Address standard early learning content
- Work at their own pace and on their own level
- Collaborate with others to plan, solve problems, and think creatively

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Content Standards

I. The Classroom Community

A. History

1. Historical Thinking and Skills: Historical thinking begins with a clear sense of time – past, present and future – and becomes more precise as students progress. Historical thinking includes skills such as locating, researching, analyzing and interpreting primary and secondary sources so that students can begin to understand the relationships among events and draw conclusions.

a) Words associated with time are meaningful in the context of daily classroom routines.

b) People develop an awareness of their personal histories.

2. Heritage: Ideas and events from the past have shaped the world as it is today. The actions of individuals and groups have made a difference in the lives of others.

a) Personal family stories and traditions support the understanding of heritage.

B. Geography

1. Spatial Thinking and Skills: Spatial thinking examines the relationships among people, places and environments by mapping and graphing geographic data. Geographic data are compiled, organized, stored and made visible using traditional and geospatial technologies. Students need to be able to access, read, interpret and create maps and other geographic representations as tools of analysis.

a) Relative location can be described by words such as up, down, over, under, here, there, front, back, behind and in front.

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2. Human Systems: Human systems represent the settlement and structures created by people on Earth's surface. The growth, distribution and movements of people are driving forces behind human and physical events. Geographers study patterns in cultures and the changes that result from human processes, migrations and the diffusion of new cultural traits.

- a) People belong to a number of groups and these groups have unique characteristics. Similarities among people are used to define groups.

C. Government

1. Civic Participation and Skills: Civic participation embraces the ideal that an individual actively engages in his or her community, state or nation for the common good. Students need to practice effective communication skills including negotiation, compromise and collaboration. Skills in accessing and analyzing information are essential for citizens in a democracy.

- a) Everyone has responsibilities within a group.
- b) Relationships in families, schools and communities benefit from cooperative behaviors and problem-solving skills.
- c) Choices have consequences.

2. Rules and Laws: Rules play an important role in guiding behavior and establishing order in families, classrooms and organizations. Laws are enacted by governments to perform similar functions.

- a) Schools and classrooms have rules and routines that govern daily life. Rules exist in families, schools and communities.

D. Economics

1. Scarcity: There are not enough resources to produce all the goods and services that people desire.

- a) People have wants and must make decisions to satisfy those wants.

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2. Production and Consumption: Production is the act of combining natural resources, human resources, capital goods and entrepreneurship to make goods and services. Consumption is the use of goods and services.

a) Resources are used to satisfy wants.