

**SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM SUMMARY**

The purpose of the Social Studies Curriculum Summary is to present an overview of the American Government/Economics curriculum. Parents are the intended audience of the Social Studies Curriculum Summary.

**Unit 1 – Political and Economic Systems**

Students study theories and duties of government, and compare and contrast forms of political leadership. American citizenship, political ideals of American government, and rights of individual Americans are explored. The principles of capitalist, communist and socialist economic systems are compared and contrasted.

**Unit 2 – The Constitution**

Students study the constitution and the process and nature of changes that have occurred since its inception. Powers of government (state and federal), along with the duties and responsibilities of each are explored.

**Unit 3 – Political Participation**

Students analyze the election process, the development of the two party system in the US, how Presidential candidates are nominated, and campaign financing. As part of this unit, students will discuss the American political culture, ideological labels, interest groups, public opinion, and lobbying.

**Unit 4 – Structure of American Government**

Students explore the branches of government, their powers, roles, responsibilities and interrelationships. In addition, how Congressional districts are established, how membership in the House and Senate is determined, as well as the law-making process is studied.

**Unit 5 – Civil Rights and Civil Liberties**

Students analyze and evaluate the First Amendment and the significance of the Bill of Rights and the Fourteenth Amendment. Right to privacy, equal protection and due process of law and discrimination are also explored.

**Current Events**

Current events will be discussed throughout the year, with particular focus on American government.