



## Dear Second Grade Families,

We're excited to share a look at what your child will be exploring in **Social Studies** this year. In second grade, our focus is on the theme "**My Community and Other United States Communities.**" Students will expand their understanding of the world around them by learning about different types of communities, how people live and work together, and the geography, history, and economics that shape everyday life. Our curriculum follows the **New York State Social Studies Framework** and builds on five major themes:

- ✓ *Identity and Culture*
- ✓ *Civic Ideals and Participation*
- ✓ *Geography and Human-Environment Interaction*
- ✓ *History and Change Over Time*
- ✓ *Economics and Decision-Making*

Through engaging read-alouds, discussions, writing, map work, projects, and hands-on learning, students will develop skills in asking questions, gathering information, making comparisons, and explaining their ideas. Below is an overview of the learning journey ahead:

### Fall: Becoming Active Citizens

We begin the year by exploring what it means to be a member of a classroom, school, and community. Students learn about **rules, responsibilities, symbols, and voting**, laying the groundwork for thoughtful participation in group settings. We also look at American holidays and national symbols throughout the year.

### Late Fall: Exploring Communities

Students compare **urban, suburban, and rural communities**, learning how the places we live affect how we travel, communicate, and work. Using literature, images, and video, we explore how different types of communities meet people's needs—and how they are both similar and different from our own.

### Winter: Mapping Our World

In this geography unit, students practice using **maps, globes, and directional tools** to learn about places and environments. They investigate how geography influences community life and explore landforms, continents, and the connections between where we live and how we live.

### Spring: Understanding Economics



## CLARKSTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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We end the year by exploring **needs and wants, goods and services, saving and spending, and the choices people make** in a community economy. Students take part in interactive activities that help them see how individuals, workers, and businesses all play a role in helping a community thrive.

Throughout the year, students will also have opportunities to take part in **optional inquiry-based projects** that deepen their thinking and encourage collaboration. These projects ask big questions—like “What symbol best represents the United States?” or “How would our lives be different if we lived in another kind of community?”—and guide students through researching, discussing, and presenting their ideas.

Thank you for your partnership in supporting your child’s learning. We look forward to an exciting and meaningful year of discovery in Social Studies!