

**Dear First Grade Families,**

We're excited to share a look at what your child will be learning in Social Studies this year. In first grade, students explore the theme: **"My Family and Other Families, Now and Long Ago."** This year-long study helps children better understand themselves, their families, and the world around them—both past and present. Our curriculum follows the New York State Social Studies Framework and is built around five big ideas: **identity, citizenship, geography, history, and economics**. Through books, discussions, storytelling, and hands-on activities, students learn how families live, work, celebrate, and change over time—and how their lives connect to others in their community and beyond. Here's what the year will include:

Fall: Rules, Routines, and Responsibilities

We begin the year by talking about rules and laws—at home, in school, and in our community. Students explore why we have rules, how we show responsibility, and what it means to be a good citizen. These lessons tie into our classroom routines and help set a positive tone for the year.

Late Fall: Learning About Families

Students take a deeper look at families—their own and others. They learn that while families can look different, they all provide love, care, and support. We'll also discuss how families have changed over time and explore the importance of family traditions, roles, and stories.

Winter: Unity in the Community

This unit focuses on how people work together to build safe and caring communities. Students learn about community helpers, important places in a neighborhood, and how we show respect and kindness to those around us. They also practice using maps and other tools to explore the world around them.

Spring: Economics and Making Choices

In the final unit, we introduce students to basic economic ideas. Children learn about needs and wants, spending and saving, and how people make choices. We also explore how our choices affect others and the environment, connecting our learning to Earth Day and sustainability in age-appropriate ways.

Throughout the year, students will build skills like asking questions, gathering information, and sharing ideas. They'll work with maps, learn from stories and videos, and even explore how people lived "long ago." Our goal is to help each child develop an appreciation for different



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families, a sense of responsibility, and curiosity about the world around them. If you're interested in learning more about our Social Studies curriculum please don't hesitate to reach out.