

This Fall River Diocesan History and Social Studies Guidelines are in alignment with the most recent Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. These Guidelines are arranged by grade for Pre-K through grade 4 with the expectation that students will have met all designated learning outcomes by the end of each specific grade level. The four middle school courses may be taught in any order. The expectation is that students in grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 will have met all designated learning outcomes by the end of the eighth grade.

History and Social Studies, as related disciplines, embody the essence of humankind. This incorporates the ideals of where people decide to live, how people organize their lives, how individuals, society, nations, etc. change, and how they prosper. Within our Fall River Diocesan Guidelines, basic Catholic and social principles are also a major part. These include dignity of the human person, call to family, community and participation, and love for all people, especially the poor and vulnerable.

Throughout the guidelines, the subject matter content is delineated in specific terms in the Learning Outcomes section; this section is comprehensive and continuous as the expectation for the grade. All the other sections, Teaching/Learning Strategies, Values and Attitudes, Resources, and Assessments, contain suggestions. These sections are not comprehensive by design; they are meant to be used as a resource guide by the teacher. Teachers can use these suggestions and/or provide other ideas or approaches that have worked well within the classroom setting.

History and Social Studies are a life long learning processes which draw on disciplines such as anthropology, economics, geography, political science, religion, sociology, and others which are necessary in a democratic society. Learning Social Studies and History are required for forming a just, peaceful, global community in which individuals use the application of the Gospel values in making life decisions in relation to themselves, their immediate communities, the Church, and the society as a whole.