



Dear Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information regarding the current unit of study in Social Studies: **Local Communities and Beyond**. During the unit, students will be focusing on the essential questions and objectives that appear below. Per the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Social Studies, teachers will use interconnected current events as discussion points as ways to teach students to carefully read the news, evaluate sources, and respectfully disagree with one another based on facts.

Essential Questions

- How do we make choices about what to do with our money?
- What happens if there are too many resources or not enough resources?
- How do we get the things we need and want into our communities?
- How do community helpers support the needs of its members?
- What does living in a community look like?
- How can you help the local community of River Edge?

Student Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Cite examples of choices people make when resources are scarce.
- Describe how supply and demand influence price and output of products.
- Explain why and how people in one country trade goods and services with people in other countries.
- Describe who a community helper is and how they support their neighborhood? .

Ways You Can Help Your Child:

1. Ask your child to share the texts and topics they are reading.
2. Ask your child what new understandings or discoveries they have made about this historical time period.
3. Encourage your child to share their thinking around the essential questions and objectives of the unit.
4. Sit side-by-side and explore your child's classwork. See what new skills and strategies they are exploring throughout the unit.
5. Ask your child to orally share their ideas about History/Social Studies.

Please contact your child's Social Studies teacher with any questions you may have.



Dear Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information regarding the current unit of study in Social Studies: **Shaping The American Identity**. During the unit, students will be focusing on the essential questions and objectives that appear below. Per the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Social Studies, teachers will use interconnected current events as discussion points as ways to teach students to carefully read the news, evaluate sources, and respectfully disagree with one another based on facts.

Essential Questions

- How are rules and laws created and why should we follow them? At home? At school? In River Edge? In the United States?
- How do democratic principles (such as fairness, equality, and responsibility) guide the actions of government members?
- How do certain character traits help individuals become good citizens at home, school, River Edge, United States?
- Why is it important to learn about historical symbols, monuments, and holidays of different cultures as part of understanding the American identity?

Student Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Explain how individuals work with different levels of government to make rules
- Explain how national symbols reflect on American values and principles.
- Use evidence to describe how democratic principles such as equality, fairness, and respect for legitimate authority and rules have impacted individuals and communities.
- Explain how historical symbols, monuments, and holidays reflect the shared values, principles, and beliefs of the American identity.
- Describe why it is important that individuals assume personal and civic responsibilities in a democratic society.

Ways You Can Help Your Child:

1. Ask your child to share the texts and topics they are reading.
2. Ask your child what new understandings or discoveries they have made about this historical time period.
3. Encourage your child to share their thinking around the essential questions and objectives of the unit.
4. Sit side-by-side and explore your child's classwork. See what new skills and strategies they are exploring throughout the unit.
5. Ask your child to orally share their ideas about History/Social Studies.

Please contact your child's Social Studies teacher with any questions you may have.



Dear Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information regarding the current unit of study in Social Studies: **Where We Live**. During the unit, students will be focusing on the essential questions and objectives that appear below. Per the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Social Studies, teachers will use interconnected current events as discussion points as ways to teach students to carefully read the news, evaluate sources, and respectfully disagree with one another based on facts.

Essential Questions

- How do geographical characteristics of places influence where people live and move from place to place?
- How do environmental characteristics influence how and where people live and move from place to place?
- How do cultural characteristics influence how and where people live and move from place to place in New Jersey and the United States?

Student Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify examples of geospatial data (e.g., landmarks on the school grounds)
- Describe how human activities affect the culture and environmental characteristics of places or regions (e.g., transportation, housing, dietary needs).
- Identify cultural and environmental characteristics of different regions in New Jersey and the United States.
- Explain why and how people, goods, and ideas move from place to place.

Ways You Can Help Your Child:

1. Ask your child to share the texts and topics they are reading.
2. Ask your child what new understandings or discoveries they have made about this historical time period.
3. Encourage your child to share their thinking around the essential questions and objectives of the unit.
4. Sit side-by-side and explore your child's classwork. See what new skills and strategies they are exploring throughout the unit.
5. Ask your child to orally share their ideas about History/Social Studies.

Please contact your child's Social Studies teacher with any questions you may have.



Dear Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information regarding the current unit of study in Social Studies: **Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow**. During the unit, students will be focusing on the essential questions and objectives that appear below. Per the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Social Studies, teachers will use interconnected current events as discussion points as ways to teach students to carefully read the news, evaluate sources, and respectfully disagree with one another based on facts.

Essential Questions

- How do historical timelines of events in chronological order help people understand the past?
- What are some of the key events (Native Americans, immigrants, Founding Fathers) that led to the creation of our country?
- How is our life different from the past, and how is it the same?
- Why is it important to respect and understand the views of others?
- How has our community of River Edge changed over time?
- How do so many people make one nation?

Student Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Use multiple sources to create a chronological sequence of events that describes how and why your community has changed over time
- Use a timeline of important events to make inferences about the "big picture" of history
- Make inferences about how past events, individuals, and innovations affect our current lives
- Use examples from the past and present to describe how stereotyping and prejudice can lead to conflict.
- Use examples of regional folk heroes, stories, and/or songs and make inferences about how they have contributed to the development of a culture's history
- Make an evidence-based argument how and why communities change over time (e.g., locally, nationally, globally)

Ways You Can Help Your Child:

1. Ask your child to share the texts and topics they are reading.
2. Ask your child what new understandings or discoveries they have made about this historical time period.
3. Encourage your child to share their thinking around the essential questions and objectives of the unit.
4. Sit side-by-side and explore your child's classwork. See what new skills and strategies they are exploring throughout the unit.
5. Ask your child to orally share their ideas about History/Social Studies.

Please contact your child's Social Studies teacher with any questions you may have.