

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
Grade-Level Expectations  
Grades K-1-2**

**STANDARD 1: The student will understand how people create and change systems of power, authority, and *government*.**

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

**K-2.SS.S1.B1: Determine national leaders and their responsibilities.**

Grade K: Name leaders in their lives, such as the principal, leader of club/organization, etc.

Grade 1: Identify governor and president.

Grade 2: Identify mayor, governor and president, and their responsibilities.

**Benchmark**

**K-2.SS.S1.B2: Determine the difference between school/home rules and community laws and why they are necessary.**

Grade K: Identify classroom and school rules, and why they are necessary.

Grade 1: Compare rules at school and home, and why they are necessary.

Grade 2: Identify community laws and why they are necessary.

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
Grade-Level Expectations  
Grades K-1-2**

**STANDARD 2: The student will understand how people and societies organize for the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. (*Economics*)**

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

- K-2.SS.S2.B1: Explain that families have unlimited wants but limited resources to satisfy those wants.**  
Grade K: Identify basic needs met within a family.  
Grade 1: Compare the difference between needs and wants.  
Identify goods and services.  
Grade 2: Explain that families have unlimited wants but limited resources to satisfy those wants.

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
Grade-Level Expectations  
Grades K-1-2**

**STANDARD 3: The student will demonstrate an awareness and understanding of *cultures* and cultural diversity, and their impact.**

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

**K-2.SS.S3.B1: Compare the likenesses and differences in the world in the way people live and work together in a community.**

Grade K: Compare the likenesses and differences between families.

Grade 1: Compare the likenesses and differences in the way people live and work together in a community.

Grade 2: Benchmark already met.

**Benchmark**

**K-2.SS.S3.B2: Compare family history and identify traditions, and appreciate the value of learning from family members' customs, and celebrations of various cultures in the United States.**

Grade K: Identify traditions, customs and celebrations within families.

Grade 1: Identify traditions, customs and celebrations in the community.

Grade 2: Identify traditions, customs and celebrations of various cultures in the United States.

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES**  
**SOCIAL STUDIES**  
**Grade-Level Expectations**  
**Grades K-1-2**

**STANDARD 4: The student will understand and analyze *geography* through the study of the interactions of people, places, and environments.**

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

**K-2.SS.S4.B1: Demonstrate knowledge of the locations of his/her state, the United States and its capital, and its continental neighbors.**

Grade K: States address including house number, city and state.

Grade 1: Identify and locate city, state, and country.

Grade 2: Identify and locate state and country capitals and continental neighbors.

**Benchmark**

**K-2.SS.S4.B2: Describe major bodies of water and landforms.**

Grade K: Identify land and water on a map.

Grade 1: Describe land and water features.

Grade 2: Identify major bodies of water and landforms.

**Benchmark**

**K-2.SS.S4.B3: Demonstrate the use of local, state, and world maps using a key, and cardinal directions.**

Grade K: Recognize a map as a tool to identify places.

Grade 1: Read a simple map using a key, and cardinal directions.

Grade 2: Demonstrate the use of a state and world map using a key, and cardinal directions.  
Create a simple map with a key.

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
Grade-Level Expectations  
Grades K-1-2**

**STANDARD 5: The student will understand the ideals, principles, and practices of *citizenship* in a democratic society.**

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

**K-2.SS.S5.B1: Demonstrate responsibility in school, community, and nation.**

- Grade K: Not assessed at this level.
- Grade 1: Identify personal responsibilities.
- Grade 2: Identify individual rights.

**Benchmark**

**K-2.SS.S5.B2: Identify U.S. holidays and traditions.**

- Grade K: Identify national symbols (i.e. American flag, eagle, monuments).
- Grade 1: Recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Grade 2: Identify national holidays and explain their significance.

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
Grade-Level Expectations  
Grades K-1-2**

**STANDARD 6: The student will understand how our societies have changed and developed through a study of *history*.**

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

- K-2.SS.S6.B1: Compare the past with the present, and recognize examples of change in the United States.**
- Grade K: Distinguish between the past and the present.
  - Grade 1: Compare the past with the present and recognize examples of change.
  - Grade 2: Compare the past with the present and recognize examples of change in the United States.

**Benchmark**

- K-2.SS.S6.B2: Identify and explain significance of important United States and Christian leaders (figures).**
- Grade K: Identify key people throughout the United States and church history.
  - Grade 1: Identify key people and events throughout the United States and church history.
  - Grade 2: Identify key people and events throughout the United States and church history, and explain their significance.

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
Grade-Level Expectations  
Grades K-1-2**

**STANDARD 7: The student will understand the effects of *science and technology* on society.**

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

**K-2.SS.S7.B1: Identify the effects of basic science and technology and their uses in society.**

Grade K: Recognize basic science and technological advances and their uses.

Grade 1: Describe how basic science and technological advances makes one's life easier.

Grade 2: Identify the effects of basic science and technological advances on individuals.

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
Grade-Level Expectations  
Grades K-1-2**

**STANDARD 8:** The student will demonstrate an understanding of the factors that shape individual development as well as patterns of the *interactions* among individuals, groups, and institutions. (*Sociology/Psychology*)

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

- K-2.SS.S8.B1:** Describe how the group to which a person belongs influences how one acts.
- Grade K: Identify groups to which people belong.
  - Grade 1: Identify the goals and values of various groups to which people belong.
  - Grade 2: Identify how the goals and values of groups influence how people act.



**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
Grade-Level Expectations  
Grades K-1-2**

**STANDARD 9: The student will understand *global* connections and *interdependence*.**

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

**K-2.SS.S9.B1: Identify global issues, their consequences, and possible solutions.**

Grade K: List global issues (i.e. pollution, endangered species, limited natural resources).

Grade 1: Identify consequences of global issues.

Grade 2: Identify possible solutions to global issues.

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
Grade-Level Expectations  
Grades 3-4-5**

**STANDARD 1: The student will understand how people create and change systems of power, authority, and *government*.**

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

**3-5.SS.S1.B1: Distinguish among local, state, and national governments, and identify representative leaders at these levels. (i.e. Mayor, governor, president)**

Grade 3: Identify the 3 levels and 3 branches of government.

Grade 4: Distinguish differences in roles of levels and branches of government.

Grade 5: Explain the rights and responsibilities of government leaders.

**Benchmark**

**3-5.SS.S1.B2: Explain how rules and laws promote order in a society.**

Grade 3: Identify rules and laws in a society.

Grade 4: Identify rules and laws, and how they promote order.

Grade 5: Explain how rules and laws promote order.

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
Grade-Level Expectations  
Grades 3-4-5**

**STANDARD 2: The student will understand how people organize for the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. (*Economics*)**

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

**3-5.SS.S2.B1: Apply the principles of organizing production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.**

Grade 3: Differentiate between the producers and consumers.

Grade 4: Explain the interdependence between the producers and consumers.

Grade 5: Apply the principles of organizing production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES**  
**SOCIAL STUDIES**  
**Grade-Level Expectations**  
**Grades 3-4-5**

**STANDARD 3: The student will demonstrate an awareness and understanding of *cultures* and cultural diversity and their impact.**

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

**3-5.SS.S3.B1: Identify contributions made by different cultures to the development of the United States**

Grade 3: Identify contributions made by different community members.

Grade 4: Explain the contributions made by different cultures to the development of regions.

Grade 5: Compare/contrast the contributions made that led to the development of the U.S.

**Benchmark**

**3-5.SS.S3.B2: Describe the role that religion plays in society.**

Grade 3: Identify that religion plays a role in communities.

Grade 4: Describe ways that religion plays a role in various cultures of the U.S.

Grade 5: Distinguish ways that the quest for religious freedom played a major role in the development of the U.S.

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES**  
**SOCIAL STUDIES**  
**Grade-Level Expectations**  
**Grades 3-4-5**

**STANDARD 4:** The student will understand and analyze *geography* through the study of the interactions of people, places, and environment.

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

**3-5.SS.S4.B1:** Identify continents, regions, states, capitals, and major geographic features of the United States.

Grade 3: Identify the seven continents, four major oceans, and major geographical features of the U.S.

Grade 4: Locate and name all 50 states, capitals, and major regions in the U.S.

Grade 5: Benchmark already met.

**Benchmark**

**3-5.SS.S4.B2:** Read maps at an appropriate level.

Grade 3: Identify and use the parts of a map.

Grade 4: Demonstrate the ability to read and interpret maps.

Grade 5: Apply map skills to a variety of maps.

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
Grade-Level Expectations  
Grades 3-4-5**

**STANDARD 5: The student will understand the ideals, principles, and practices of *citizenship* in a democratic society.**

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

**3-5.SS.S5.B1: Determine the rights and responsibilities of a citizen.**

Grade 3: Explain the rights and responsibilities of a member of a community.

Grade 4: Explain how rights come with responsibilities (such as the right to vote comes with the responsibility of being an educated citizen).

Grade 5: Explain how the rights and responsibilities impact you as an individual.

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES**  
**SOCIAL STUDIES**  
**Grade-Level Expectations**  
**Grades 3-4-5**

**STANDARD 6: The student will understand how our society has changed and developed through a study of *history*.**

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

**3-5.SS.S6.B1: Understands major events in the development of Iowa history.**

Grade 3: N/A

Grade 4: N/A

Grade 5: Understands major events in the development of Iowa history.

**Benchmark**

**3-5.SS.S6.B2: Examine historical events using a timeline.**

Grade 3: Identify different events on a timeline.

Grade 4: Read and construct events on a timeline.

Grade 5: Compare and contrast information from different timelines.

**Benchmark**

**3-5.SS.S6.B3: Explain the impact historical and religious figures and events have had on U.S. history.**

Grade 3: Identify historical figures and events that had an impact on the development of communities.

Grade 4: Describe how historical figures and events have had an impact on the development of different regions.

Grade 5: Explain how historical figures and events had an impact on the development of the United States.

**Benchmark**

**3-5.SS.S6.B4: Describe how past events affect the future.**

Grade 3: Recognize that events in history have an impact on the future.

Grade 4: Explain how events in history have an impact on the future.

Grade 5: Distinguish events in history that have an impact on decisions that are being made today.

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
Grade-Level Expectations  
Grades 3-4-5**

**STANDARD 7: The student will understand the effects of *science and technology* on society.**

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

**3-5.SS.S7.B1: Express the major American figures responsible for discoveries in science and technology and how they influenced society.**

Grade 3: Identify inventors and scientific discoveries.

Grade 4: Identify inventors and scientific discoveries that have influenced the different regions of the U.S.

Grade 5: Recognize that inventors and scientific discoveries have affected technological advancement in the United States.



**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
Grade-Level Expectations  
Grades 3-4-5**

**STANDARD 8: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the factors that shape individual development as well as patterns of the interactions among individuals, groups, and institutions. (*Sociology/Psychology*)**

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

**3-5.SS.S8.B1: Explain the need for respect and stewardship in society.**

Grade 3: Identify ways to respect self, others, and nature.

Grade 4: Demonstrate ways to respect self, others, and nature.

Grade 5: Analyze how the respect for self, others, and nature affect society.

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
Grade-Level Expectations  
Grades 3-4-5**

**STANDARD 9: The student will understand *global* connections and *interdependence*.**

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

**3-5.SS.S9.B1: Distinguish the economic interdependence between regions of the United States.**

Grade 3: Recognize the interdependence between rural, suburban, and urban communities.

Grade 4: Describe how the different U.S. regions are interdependent.

Grade 5: Distinguish how the colonies depended on each other throughout U.S. history.

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
Course-Level Expectations  
Grades 6-7-8**

**STANDARD 1: The student will understand how people create and change systems of power, authority, and *government*.**

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

**6-8.SS.S1.B1:**

**Describe and explain the different forms, purposes, and functions of government**

- Understand different forms of government in a global and historical context.
- Explain the structures and functions of local and national governments.
- Describe the purpose of government and how its powers are acquired, used, and justified throughout history.
- Explain the six principles of the constitution: popular sovereignty, federalism, judicial review, limited government, separation of powers and checks/balances.

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
Course-Level Expectations  
Grades 6-7-8**

**STANDARD 2: The student will understand how people organize for the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. (*Economics*)**

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

**6-8.SS.S2.B1:**

**Explain economics systems and concepts, and how they are connected to historical and current developments.**

- Define and explain different economic systems.
- Use economic concepts to help explain historical and current developments and issues in local, national, or global contexts.

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
Course-Level Expectations  
Grades 6-7-8**

**STANDARD 3: The student will demonstrate an awareness and understanding of *cultures* and cultural diversity and their impact.**

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

**6-8.SS.S3.B1:**

**Explain cultures and cultural diversity, and how they impact society.**

- Define and illustrate the elements of various cultures and their interactions.
- Compare similarities and differences in the ways civilizations meet human needs and concerns.
- Explain and give examples how the elements of culture contribute to its development and transmission.
- Identify the impact of cultural diversity on society.

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
Course-Level Expectations  
Grades 6-7-8**

**STANDARD 4: The student will understand and analyze *geography* through the study of the interactions of people, places, and environment.**

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

**6-8.SS.S4.B1:**

**Explain geographical features and themes, and how they influence historical events and human interactions.**

- Demonstrates the use of a variety of maps, globes, charts, and graphs.
- Explains the importance of geographic features to cultures.
- Demonstrates knowledge of the five themes of geography.
- Describe how historical events and human interactions have been influenced by geographic factors.

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
Course-Level Expectations  
Grades 6-7-8**

**STANDARD 5: The student will understand the ideals, principles, and practices of *citizenship* in a democratic society.**

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

**6-8.SS.S5.B1:**

**Identify and explain the rights and responsibilities of a citizen in a democracy, and the key ideals of a democratic society.**

- Identify and interpret the rights and responsibilities of a citizen in a democratic society.
- Examine the origins and continuing influence of key ideals in a democracy, such as human dignity, liberty, justice, equality, and rule of law.

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
Course-Level Expectations  
Grades 6-7-8**

**STANDARD 6: The student will understand how our society has changed and developed through a study of *history*.**

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

**6-8.SS.S6.B1:**

**Identify and explain the role of key events and historical figures in the development of civilizations.**

- Understands key events and historical figures in the development of civilizations.
- Identify the causes and effects of past events.
- Explain how religious beliefs influence the actions of people and societies.
- Understands the strengths and weaknesses of opposing sides of historical events.



**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
Course-Level Expectations  
Grades 6-7-8**

**STANDARD 7: The student will understand the effects of *science and technology* on society.**

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

**6-8.SS.S7.B1:**

**Explain how advancements in science and technology have affected human history and current cultural and societal needs.**

- Analyze how different cultural groups and societies use science and technology to meet their needs.
- Explain how advancements in science and technology have affected human history.

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
Course-Level Expectations  
Grades 6-7-8**

**STANDARD 8: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the factors that shape individual development as well as patterns of the interactions among individuals, groups, and institutions. (*Sociology/Psychology*)**

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

**6-8.SS.S8.B1:**

**Explain concepts of individual development and patterns of interactions between individuals, groups, and institutions.**

- Demonstrate an understanding of concepts such as role, status, and social class in describing the interactions of individuals and social groups.
- Explain the relevance of major religions and philosophical traditions.
- Understands how prejudice causes stereotypes and leads to discrimination.

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
Course-Level Expectations  
Grades 6-7-8**

**STANDARD 9: The student will understand *global connections and interdependence*.**

**The student will/can....**

**Benchmark**

**6-8.SS.S9.B1:**

**Identify and explain historical and current global connections.**

- Analyze historical and current events examples of conflict and cooperation among groups, societies, and nations.
- Identify and describe the roles of international and multinational organizations.