



Course Syllabus

Course Title: Social Studies, Grade 2

School Year: 2024-2025

Semester(s): 1 and 2

Grade Level(s): Grade 2

Course Day(s) and Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 am- 12:00 pm PST

Teacher Information:

- **Name:** Kendra Etter
- **Email:** kendra.etter@brancheslearning.org
- **Office Hours:** By appointment only
- **Branches Learning Main Office Number:** (323) 955-0114

Class Materials: <https://brancheslearning.org/product/social-studies-grade-2/#Materials>

Course Description: This 2nd-grade project-based social studies course inspires students to explore the lives of historical and modern-day heroes, compare and contrast family life over decades, develop map skills, and understand basic government and economic systems.

In this course, students will:

- Examine the qualities and actions of heroes and develop their understanding of what it means to be a hero.
- Understand basic geography concerning their communities, family history, and North America.
- Develop critical thinking skills through projects and reflections.

Course Units

Unit 1- Then and Now – Learners will explore how people lived differently in the past versus today. They will create a family tree and explore the history of their own family.

Unit 2- Government – Learners will explore the government of the United States.



Unit 3- Making Maps – Learners will make maps of North America and explore major landmarks. They will also make maps of their local community.

Unit 4- Heroes – Learners will explore what it means to be a hero and research a hero that interests them.

Course Expectations:

- Come to class prepared with materials.
- Attend class in a quiet area where you can focus.
- Have your camera on.
- Participate.
- Submit work in a timely fashion.
- Check google classroom for work to be completed on days not in class.
- Be respectful.

Grading Scale

Elementary School, Grades K-5

- EE – Exceeding grade level expectations
- ME – Meeting Grade Level Expectations
- AE – Approaching Grade-Level Expectations
- LE – Lack of Evidence Needed to Assess Grade-Level Expectations
- WTG – Working Toward Personal Goals Outlined in a Student’s IEP

Final grades are determined by the quality and completion of assignments, attendance, and participation.

Important Branches Learning Policy Information

Camera Policy

Branches Learning requires students to keep their cameras on during live classes unless otherwise instructed by the teacher. Exceptions can be made in rare circumstances if the course teacher, supervising teacher (HST), and the parent all approve a camera waiver.

Headset Policy

Students attending live classes from a shared space must have a headset with a microphone to ensure the class is not disrupted by background noise.



Attendance Policy

Absences must be reported to the course instructor via email or sent to info@brancheslearning.org. Class recordings are available upon requests.

Attendance and participation are part of the final grade. Students who miss more than 40% of live classes may fail the course. Exceptions may be made if a pre-approved plan is in place.

Late Work

Assignments turned in after the due date will result in a lower grade unless pre-approved by the instructor.