**This year in Social Studies we will begin with Geography Standard 1A: Building Global Mental Maps.  In this unit, students will gain a better understanding of the world around them.  They will not only be able to locate the seven continents and four/five oceans but also provide detailed information as to what physical characteristics make up the region.**

**Upon completion of Geo 1A, we will shift our focus to our Culture Unit. (Geography Standard 3)  In this unit we will examine the transition of man from hunter/gatherers to the creation of permanent settlements and civilizations.  We will explore how/why cultures are different as a result of their development, natural resources etc... and how interaction among different settlements has created cultural diffusion.**

**From Geo 3A,we will transition into our History Standard.  Here, students will study the rise and fall of the Roman Empire, focusing on the legacies it left behind.  We will study the Dark Ages with an emphasis on daily life, feudalism, the Crusades and the Black Death (ultimately ending the Dark Ages).  This unit will place a heavy emphasis on looking at primary and secondary source documents and writing.**

**Our Civics unit will follow focusing on the need for law and order.  We will begin with a few Enlightenment philosophers who paved the way for our democratic system of government.  Students will examine parts of the Declaration of Independence relating it to those philosophers.  From there, we will explore the different types of governments - placing a heavy emphasis on Federalism and our Constitutional Democracy.**

**We will end the year with Economics Standard 3A: Economic Systems.  In this unit, students will gain an understanding of the various Economic Systems that exist in the world- traditional, command and market.  Students will critically evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of each system.**