



Dominican International School
台北市私立道明外僑學校
No. 76, Dazhi Street, Taipei (104042), Taiwan, R.O.C.
10464 臺北市中山區大直街 76 號



COURSE SYLLABUS

School Year	2025-2026
Subject	Social Studies
Grade Level	7
Teacher	Mr. Springer
Email	jspringer@dishs.tp.edu.tw

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This 7th Grade Social Studies course is designed to ensure students understand the significant geographical, historical, cultural, economic, and political developments of the Eastern Hemisphere. Through the study of Southwest Asia & North Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and East Asia, students will explore how physical geography influences human societies, analyze the rise and fall of ancient and modern empires, examine diverse cultural and religious traditions, and investigate contemporary challenges and achievements. The course will emphasize critical thinking, source analysis, and effective communication skills.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: By the end of the semester/school year, (SWAT) Students will be able to:

- **Geographic Literacy:** Analyze how major geographic features (e.g., mountains, rivers, deserts, climate patterns) influence human settlement, agriculture, and population distribution in various regions of the Eastern Hemisphere.
- **Historical Analysis:** Identify and describe key historical periods, major empires, and significant events (e.g., ancient civilizations, colonial eras, independence movements) that have shaped the Eastern Hemisphere.
- **Cultural Understanding:** Explain the characteristics of diverse cultural and religious traditions, and analyze their influence on daily life, social structures, and identity within different societies.
- **Economic Systems & Interconnectedness:** Compare and contrast various economic systems, describe their real-world applications in different countries, and analyze how regions of the Eastern Hemisphere are interconnected with the global economy.
- **Political Systems & Citizenship:** Describe different forms of government, analyze the varying levels of human rights and citizen participation, and evaluate the factors influencing political stability and change in the Eastern Hemisphere.
- **Contemporary Issues:** Identify and analyze significant modern challenges (e.g., resource conflicts, urbanization, environmental concerns) and achievements (e.g., technological advancements, economic growth) facing countries in the Eastern Hemisphere.



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- **Critical Thinking & Research:** Determine central ideas from primary and secondary sources, provide accurate summaries, evaluate information for bias, and synthesize findings to construct well-supported arguments.
- **Communication Skills:** Effectively communicate historical, geographic, and social concepts through written essays, research projects, and presentations.

PRIMARY TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER RESOURCES:

- Textbook:
 - National Geographic: World Cultures & Geography Survey: 3rd Edition
 - ISBN-13: 978-0357-54326-9
- Primary and secondary source documents.
- Online academic resources (e.g., reputable historical societies, government data, educational websites).
- Maps, atlases, and globes.
- Educational videos and documentaries.
- Google Classroom for assignments, announcements, and resources.

GRADING SYSTEM/ASSESSMENT:

Student performance will be assessed through a variety of methods, including:

- Quizzes & Tests: (e.g., Google Forms quizzes, unit tests)
- Projects & Presentations: (e.g., research papers, digital presentations, case studies)
- Notebook Checks & Classwork: (e.g., structured notes, activity responses, exit tickets)
- Participation & Discussion: (e.g., Think & Share activities, small group and whole class discussions)

Grading Breakdown:

- Tests/Quizzes/Projects: 30%
- Classwork/Homework/Participation: 30%,
- Exam: 30%
- Department: 10%

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Please always check Google Classroom for homework and announcements.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic Dishonesty means employing a method or technique or engaging in conduct in an academic endeavor that contravenes the standards of ethical integrity expected at DIS.



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Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to the following:

- Purposely incorporating the ideas, words of sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof without appropriate acknowledgment and representing the product as one's work.
- Representing another's intellectual work, such as photographs, paintings, drawings, sculpture, research, or the like, as one's own, including failure to attribute content to an AI.
- Employing a tutor, using Artificial Intelligence without acknowledgment, getting a parent to write a paper or do an assignment, and paying for an essay to be written by someone else and presented as the student's work.
- Committing any act that a reasonable person would conclude, when informed of the evidence, to be a dishonest means of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work.

Any act of academic dishonesty will result in an automatic zero on the entire assignment/learning task.

First Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
Week 1 (August 12 to 15) 4 days of class 12-General Assembly at the Gymnasium 15-Opening Mass & Assumption of Our Lady	Introduction to SWANA Geography Landforms and Bodies of Water in SWANA Climates of Southwest Asia & North Africa Vital Resources: Water Project - Introduction & Planning (Day 1) Vital Resources: Water Project - Research & Drafting (Day 2)
Week 2 (August 18 to 22) 18-St. Dominic de Guzman Feast Day Celebration) Integrated during the Monday Assembly 20- House Shirt & Blue Jeans Day Starts 22- Club Orientation and Club Sign-up	Vital Resources: Water Project - Finalization (Day 3) Economic Impact of Oil & Natural Gas Resources Geography & Population Distribution in SWANA Introduction to Birthplace of Civilizations Foundations of Judaism, Christianity, Islam
Week 3 (August 25 to 29) 27- High School Talk - "Kickstart Your Success: Winning Mindsets for a Great School Year" 29- First Club Meeting	Abrahamic Religions Essay - Research & Planning (Day 1) Abrahamic Religions Essay - Drafting & Finalization (Day 2) Holy Sites of Abrahamic Religions & Jerusalem (Video Analysis)



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	<p>Review of Geography, Early History, and Religions</p> <p>Quiz on Geography, Early History, and Religions</p>
<p>Week 4 (September 1 to 5)</p> <p>1- Launching of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (During the Monday Assembly) 1-AP Registration 3- AEO Fall University Fair 5- House Ceremony</p>	<p>Deep Dive: Sumerian Civilization</p> <p>Deep Dive: Ancient Egypt (Old Kingdom)</p> <p>Deep Dive: Akkadian Empire</p> <p>Deep Dive: Ancient Egypt (Middle Kingdom)</p> <p>Deep Dive: Assyrian Empire</p>
<p>Week 5 (September 8 to 12)</p> <p>8- Holy Mass: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary & VIP Induction 10- House Mini Games Start</p>	<p>Deep Dive: Babylonian Empire</p> <p>Hammurabi's Code Analysis Project - Introduction & Planning (Day 1)</p> <p>Hammurabi's Code Analysis Project - Research & Drafting (Day 2)</p> <p>Hammurabi's Code Analysis Project - Finalization (Day 3)</p> <p>Deep Dive: Hittite Empire</p>
<p>Week 6 (September 15 to 19)</p> <p>15- Catholic Bridge Program for all New Students (After the Monday Assembly at the Gymnasium) 19- Athletics / Sports Orientation 19- PSAT/NMSQT Registration deadline</p>	<p>Deep Dive: Ancient Egypt (New Kingdom)</p> <p>Deep Dive: Persian Empire</p> <p>Deep Dive: Ottoman Empire</p> <p>Review of Ancient Civilizations Deep Dives</p> <p>Quiz on Ancient Civilizations Deep Dives</p>
<p>Week 7 (September 22 to 26)</p> <p>22- Celebration of the International Day of Peace-Peace Pole Ceremony (During the Monday Assembly) Teacher's Day Celebration & 26- Teachers' Appreciation 26- Grade 12 Career Educational Trip 24 to 26-Pre-Exam Days</p>	<p>Cultural Diversity & Identity in Modern SWANA</p> <p>Individual Ethnic Group Research Project - Introduction & Planning (Day 1)</p> <p>Individual Ethnic Group Research Project - Research & Drafting (Day 2)</p> <p>Individual Ethnic Group Research Project - Finalization (Day 3)</p>



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	3) Forms of Government in SWANA (Political Systems Introduction)
Week 8 (September 29 to October 3) 29- Launching of the Month of the Holy Rosary (During the Monday Assembly) Oct. 1-2- First Quarter Exam (half day)	Quarter 1 Exams / Project-Based Assessments Note: Remaining Unit 2 topics will carry over into Quarter 2.
<i>Oct. 3-DIS Teachers and Staff Recognition Day/ Record Day Recollection for Aunties and Uncles (no classes for students)</i>	

Second Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
<i>6-Moon Festival (no classes)</i>	
<i>7-9 Teacher's Conference (no classes)</i>	
Week 1 (10) (October 13 to 17) 13- Second Quarter Begins 13- Start of New Applicant Enrollment for 2nd Semester 14- Visit of Mother Mary to Classrooms (During the morning prayer) 15- AP Exam Only Registration Deadline 15- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 17- PSAT/NMSQT Digital Exam	Country Government Case Study Project - Introduction & Planning (Day 1) Country Government Case Study Project - Research & Drafting (Day 2) Country Government Case Study Project - Finalization (Day 3) Economic Systems in SWANA (Economic Systems Introduction) Economic Systems Deep Dive Research Project - Introduction & Planning (Day 1)
Week 2 (11) (October 20 to 24) 20- Jubilee: Marian Exhibit Opening (After the Monday Assembly) 20- Campus Safety Talk for Students 24- Book Fair (Senior Escape Room)	Economic Systems Deep Dive Research Project - Research & Drafting (Day 2) Economic Systems Deep Dive Research Project - Finalization (Day 3)



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	<p>Interconnectedness with the Global Economy (Global Economic Ties)</p> <p>Impact of Modernization & Urbanization in SWANA (Social & Environmental Changes)</p> <p>Human Rights & Citizen Participation in SWANA (Political & Social Freedoms)</p>
<p>Week 3 (12) (October 27 to 31) 29- Grade 11 Career Educational Trip Oct. 31 to Nov. 1- Gr.6 SEL Camp</p>	<p>Modern SWANA Challenges: Integrated Research Paper - Introduction & Planning (Day 1)</p> <p>Modern SWANA Challenges: Integrated Research Paper - Research & Drafting (Day 2)</p> <p>Modern SWANA Challenges: Integrated Research Paper - Finalization (Day 3)</p> <p>Unit 2 Review</p> <p>Unit 2 Summative Test</p>
<p>Week 4 (13) (November 3 to 7) 3- Feast of St. Martin de Porres Mass (integrated during the Monday Assembly) 5- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep</p>	<p>Introduction to South Asia (Regional Overview)</p> <p>Rivers of Life & Climate in South Asia (Physical Geography & Monsoons)</p> <p>Population Patterns & Human-Environment Interaction in South Asia (Settlement & Adaptation)</p> <p>Cultural & Religious Traditions in South Asia (Diversity of Beliefs)</p> <p>Cultural Exploration Project - Introduction & Planning (Day 1)</p>
<p>Week 5 (14) (November 10 to 14) 14- Health Week 14- VIP-Parent Learning Community</p>	<p>Cultural Exploration Project - Research & Drafting (Day 2)</p> <p>Cultural Exploration Project - Finalization (Day 3)</p> <p>Early History & Empires (Overview of Ancient Empires)</p> <p>Impact of European Colonization (British Rule & Its Effects)</p> <p>Partition of India & Pakistan (Causes & Consequences)</p>
<p>Week 6 (15)</p>	<p>Voices of Independence Project - Introduction (1 day, then</p>



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<p>(November 17 to 21) 17- Launching of Mental Health and Anti-Bullying Month 21- Young Shakespeare Play Writing and Performing Contest</p>	<p>independent work)</p> <p>Modern Challenges & Achievements (Overview of Contemporary Issues)</p> <p>Progress & Perseverance Case Study Project - Introduction & Planning (Day 1)</p> <p>Progress & Perseverance Case Study Project - Research & Drafting (Day 2)</p> <p>Progress & Perseverance Case Study Project - Finalization (Day 3)</p>
<p>Week 7 (16) (November 24 to 28) 24- Peace Pole Day (Monday Assembly) 24- Lighting of the Christmas Tree after school (Campus Min/ ECA/ D' Torch Orchestra/ Religious Studies) (Afternoon) 25-27- Pre-Exam Days 27- Thanksgiving Potluck after school for teachers and staff 27- Thanksgiving Family Day 28- Gr. 12 Second Quarter Exam</p>	<p>Unit 3 Review</p> <p>Unit 3 Summative Test</p> <p>Deep Dive: Indus Valley Civilizations (Ancient Urban Planning & Mystery)</p> <p>Deep Dive: Vedic Period (Foundations of Indian Culture & Religion)</p> <p>Deep Dive: Mauryan Empire (India's First Great Empire & Ashoka)</p>
<p><i>Nov. 29 Invitation for All: The Jubilee Pilgrimage to Taipei (Saturday)</i></p>	
<p>Week 8 (17) (December 1 to 5) 1- First Week of Advent: Lighting of First Advent Candle (During the Monday Assembly) 3- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 5- Nativity Play (Collaboration with Campus Ministry) 5- Christmas Fair Whole Day</p>	<p>Deep Dive: Gupta Empire (India's Golden Age - Science, Math, Arts)</p> <p>Deep Dive: Mughal Empire (Grandeur, Diversity, & Decline)</p> <p>Impact of the Green Revolution in South Asia (Agricultural Changes & Effects)</p> <p>South Asia's Geopolitical Significance: India & Pakistan (Nuclear Powers & Regional Tensions)</p> <p>South Asia Deep Dive Review (Review of Deep Dives)</p>
<p>Week 9 (18) (December 8 to 12) 8- Foundation Day Mass, cake ceremony, and Class Party (half</p>	<p>Quarter 2 Exams / Project-Based Assessments</p>



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day) 8- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 8- Second Week of Advent 10- Gr. 12 Advent Immersion 11 and 12- Second Quarter Exam (half day)	
<i>December 13 Invitation for All: Advent Recollection @DIS (Saturday)</i>	
<i>December 15 to January 2 Christmas Break</i>	

Third Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
<i>January 5- Record Day (No Classes for students)</i>	
Week 1 (19) (January 5 to 9) 5- PSAT 8/9 Registration Starts 6- Third Quarter Begins 7- Monthly Career Talk-College Prep 9- New Year Mass at 8:00	Unit 4: Southeast Asia - Diversity & Dynamics Introduction to Southeast Asia: Geography & Climate Cultural & Religious Diversity (e.g., Buddhism, Islam, Indigenous beliefs) Historical Empires & Trade Networks (e.g., Khmer Empire, Maritime Trade) Impact of European Colonization & Independence Movements Modern Challenges & Achievements (e.g., economic development, environmental issues)
Week 2 (20) (January 12 to 16) 16- Club Orientation & Sign Up	Modern Challenges & Achievements (Continued - e.g., regional cooperation) Project: ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Case Study or a project on a specific country's development. (Day 1 - Introduction & Planning) Project: ASEAN Case Study (Day 2 - Research & Drafting)
Week 3 (21) (January 19 to 23) 19-23- Individual Yearbook Photoshoot for Students 19-23- Career Awareness Week 22- Grade 9 Career Educational trip	Project: ASEAN Case Study (Day 3 - Finalization) Unit Review (Southeast Asia)



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23- First Club Meeting for 2nd Semester	Assessment (Southeast Asia)
Week 4 (22) (January 26 to 30) 26- Feast Day of St. Thomas Aquinas/Launching of the Catholic Week 26-28- Aquinas Conference: Science and Faith 26-30- Catholic Week Activities 30- DYM Charity Concert	Unit 5: East Asia - Tradition & Transformation Introduction to East Asia: Geography & Climate Ancient Dynasties & Philosophies (e.g., Confucianism, Daoism, Legalism, Buddhism in China/Japan) Feudal Japan & Imperial China Impact of Western Influence & Modernization Modern Challenges & Achievements (e.g., economic powerhouses, human rights)
Week 5 (23) (February 2 to 6) 1-4- WASC Mid-Cycle Visit 4- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 6-7- SUAQ Recollection for MS	Modern Challenges & Achievements (Continued - e.g., environmental concerns, regional tensions) Project: Comparative study of China, Japan, and Korea's economic development or cultural influence. (Day 1 - Introduction & Planning) Project: Comparative Study (Day 2 - Research & Drafting)
Week 6 (24) (February 9 to 13) 9- Start of New Applicant Enrollment for 1st Semester for SY2025-26 13- PSAT 8/9 Registration Deadline 13- House Valentine's Mini Fair 13- Chinese New Year Celebration	Project: Comparative Study (Day 3 - Finalization) Unit Review (East Asia) Assessment (East Asia)
<i>February 16-20 Chinese New Year Holiday</i>	
Week 7 (26) (February 23 to 26) 23-26- IOWA Assessments 23- Student Council Application 24-26- Pre-Exam Days	Unit 6: Global Connections & Contemporary Issues Globalization & International Organizations (UN, WTO) Global Conflicts & Peacekeeping Environmental Sustainability Human Migration & Refugees Global Health Issues



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February 27 Memorial Day Holiday (no classes)

<p>Week 8 (27) (March 2 to 6)</p> <p>3- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 6- PSAT 8/9 System Installation and Practice Test</p>	<p>Role of Technology in a Globalized World</p> <p>Project: "Global Solutions" Project - Introduction & Planning (Day 1)</p> <p>Project: "Global Solutions" Project - Research & Drafting (Day 2)</p> <p>Project: "Global Solutions" Project - Finalization (Day 3)</p>
<p>Week 9 (28) (March 9 to 13)</p> <p>13 and 16- Third Quarter Exam (half day)</p>	<p>Quarter 3 Exams / Project-Based Assessments</p>

Fourth Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
<p>Week 1 (29) (March 16 to 20)</p> <p>16- Third Quarter Exam (half day) 16-20- Faculty & Staff Yearbook Photo 17- Fourth Quarter Begins 18-21- EARCOS Teachers' Conference 19- Lectio Divina and Feast of St. Joseph 20- Parents Learning Community Meeting 20- Kindilympics 20-House Movie Night and Club Fair</p>	<p>Deeper Dive: Global Development Goals (e.g., UN Sustainable Development Goals)</p> <p>Deeper Dive: Geopolitics of Climate Change (International agreements, regional impacts)</p> <p>Deeper Dive: The Role of NGOs in Global Issues (Case studies of specific organizations)</p> <p>Case Study: A Major Humanitarian Crisis (e.g., specific refugee crisis, famine response)</p> <p>Case Study: A Global Success Story (e.g., polio eradication, microfinance initiatives)</p>
<p><i>March 21 (Saturday) Spring Fair</i></p>	
<p>Week 2 (30) (March 23 to 27)</p> <p>23-27 Student Leaders Applicant Interviews 26- Annual Visit to World Religion Museum Gr. 11 27- Lower School Readers Theatre</p>	<p>Global Citizenship: Rights & Responsibilities in an Interconnected World</p> <p>Interdependence & Future Global Challenges (e.g., resource depletion, cyber security)</p> <p>Review Session: Geographic Patterns Across Hemispheres (Key physical features, climate zones, population density)</p>



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	<p>across all regions studied)</p> <p>Review Session: Ancient Civilizations & Empires (Comparing contributions, rise, and fall of major empires from SWANA, South Asia, East Asia)</p> <p>Review Session: Cultural & Religious Traditions (Major faiths, cultural blending, impact on daily life across regions)</p>
<p><i>March 30 to April 6 Easter/Spring Break</i></p>	
<p>Week 3 (31) (April 7 to 10)</p> <p>7- Spring University Fair 9- Easter Mass 9- Easter Egg Hunt for Lower School Students</p>	<p>Review Session: Political Systems & Governance (Comparing forms of government, citizen participation, human rights across regions)</p> <p>Review Session: Economic Systems & Global Interconnectedness (Comparing economic models, trade patterns, globalization's effects)</p> <p>Review Session: Modern Challenges & Achievements (Synthesizing key issues and progress across all regions)</p> <p>Final Synthesis Project: "Eastern Hemisphere: A Global Perspective" - Introduction & Planning (Day 1) (Students choose a theme (e.g., conflict, innovation, environment) and trace its impact across multiple regions studied)</p> <p>Final Synthesis Project - Research & Outline (Day 2)</p>
<p>Week 4 (32) (April 13 to 17)</p> <p>13 Laudato Si Month Launching (During the Monday Assembly) 13-30 Laudato Si Month Activities 13-17- Class Photo Taking 17- AP Chinese/Japanese Practice Test</p>	<p>Final Synthesis Project - Drafting (Day 3)</p> <p>Final Synthesis Project - Revision & Polish (Day 4)</p> <p>Final Synthesis Project - Final Submission & Presentations (Day 1)</p> <p>Final Synthesis Project - Presentations (Day 2)</p> <p>Final Synthesis Project - Presentations (Day 3)</p>
<p>Week 5 (33) (April 20 to 24)</p> <p>20-24 Cultural Awareness Week / Art Exhibit / Earth Week 24- Music Recital 20-24 Student Council Campaign 20-24 AP Mock Exams</p>	<p>Final Synthesis Project - Presentations (Day 4)</p> <p>Final Synthesis Project - Presentations (Day 5)</p> <p>Current Events Deep Dive: Analyzing a significant global</p>



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	<p>event from the past year (e.g., recent conflict, scientific breakthrough, major election)</p> <p>Future Global Trends & Predictions: Discussion and analysis of emerging challenges and opportunities.</p> <p>Course Wrap-up & Reflection: Key takeaways, personal growth, and connections to lifelong learning.</p>
<p>Week 6 (34) (April 27 to 30) 27- Student Council Elections 27-30 Senior Project Presentations 28-30 Pre-Exam Days</p>	<p>Guest Speaker/Documentary Analysis: Exploring a specific global issue or career in international relations.</p> <p>Global Simulation/Debate: Engaging in a simulated UN debate or a structured discussion on a complex global dilemma.</p> <p>Intercultural Communication Skills Workshop: Practical strategies for effective communication across diverse cultural backgrounds.</p> <p>Global Impact Project Showcase: Displaying student work from the year, inviting other classes/parents.</p> <p>Career Connections: Global Studies: Exploring careers related to international affairs, diplomacy, development, etc.</p>
<p><i>May 1: Labor Day Public Holiday</i></p>	
<p>Week 7 (35) (May 4 to 8) 4- May Crowning & Mother's Day Celebration (During the Monday Assembly) 4-14 Final Exams (K, Gr. 5, 8, & 12 Only) 4-15 AP Exams</p>	<p>Review Game/Activity: Comprehensive review of all units through an engaging game format (e.g., Jeopardy, Blooket).</p> <p>Open Q&A / Study Session: Dedicated time for student questions and exam preparation.</p> <p>Final Exam Study Guide Review: Going over key terms, concepts, and essay prompts.</p> <p>Course Feedback & Reflection: Student input on the course, what they learned, and suggestions for future.</p> <p>Final Class Activity/Celebration: Engaging activity to celebrate the year's learning.</p>
<p>Week 8 (36) (May 11 to 15) 13 and 14- Fourth Quarter</p>	<p>Quarter 4 Exams / Project-Based Assessments</p>



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<p>Exam—Undergraduate (half day) 14-16 Student Leaders Retreat Days</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>May 15 Record Day (No Classes for students) Final Deliberation for Graduating/Promoting Classes</i></p>	
<p>Week 9 (37) (May 18 to 22) 18- Gr. 5 Recollection & Mass 19- Gr. 8 Recollection & Mass 20- Gr. 12 Recollection 20- Baccalaureate Mass (Whole School) 18-21 WIDA Testing 19- Lower School Sports Day / Gr. 6 & 7 School Field Trip 19- Gr. 9 - 11 - "Senior Success Forum: Inspiring the Next Generation" 19-22 Student Clearance Days 21- Middle & High School Sports Day 21- High School Field Trip 22- House Culminating Activity 20-22 Final Deliberation for Non-Graduating Classes 22- Student Leaders One Day Recollection / Turn Over Ceremony</p>	<p>School Activities & Course Review</p>
<p>Week 10 (38) (May 25 to 29) 25- Kindergarten Graduation/Gr. 5 Promotion 26- LS Field Trip 26- Gr. 8 Graduation and Gr. 12 Graduation 27- Pre-Kindergarten & Gr. 1 - 4, 6 & 7, 9-11 Recognition Last Day of School, Report Card 28- Distribution, & Class Party (half day) 29- Last day for Teachers/Staff Meeting</p>	<p>School Activities & Course Review</p>

"Kindling the Light of Faith, Hope, and Love: The Legacy of St. Dominic de Guzmán"