Curriculum map for:

Intro to Law

Intro to law presents an overview of the legal system in the United States including the structure of government and individual rights and responsibilities. The emphasis is on the way laws and rules are written and changed and on the rights and responsibilities of juveniles in school and the courts. Career opportunities in law, law enforcement, and government will be explored. The New York State Learning Standards for Social Studies (Commencement Level) are the foundation of this course. Standards from the Common Core Reading and Writing Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies will be implemented where applicable. While the Introduction to Law curriculum will address a wide variety of social studies standards, the intended focus is on Standard 5: Civics, Citizenship and Government. Student learning will focus on multiple performance indicators, including:

 understand the dynamic relationship between federalism and state’s rights (KI 2-E)

 understand how citizenship includes the exercise of certain personal responsibilities, including voting, considering the rights and interests of others, behaving in a civil manner, and accepting responsibility for the consequences of one’s actions (KI 3-A)

 participate as informed citizens in the political justice system and processes of the United States, including voting (KI 4-A)

 explain how democratic principles have been used in resolving an issue or problem (KI 4-G)

As evidence of learning, students will demonstrate achievement by taking a regionally developed pre and post assessment modeled after NYS requirements.

Text: *Street Law : A Course in Practical Law*

*By: Arbetman*

**Unit 1: Foundations of Law in the US**

Key ideas:

* Laws are developed to ensure people are protected (Hobbes vs Locke)
* Explore the types of law
* United States law is based upon laws from The British Empire
* The United States Constitution is the foundation of Laws in America
* The Bill of Rights is a documents that enumerates some specific rights in the nation
* Laws originate from Congress, State Legislatures, Counties and Towns, as well as other agencies

**Unit 2: The Legal System in the US**

* Legal system is composed of different level of Courts with different jurisdictions
* The legal system is built upon the concept of a trial
* Trials contain systemic steps in order to ensure people receive a fair hearing under the law
* What are different types of trials?
* How does one become an Officer of the Court?
* What are other methods of settling disputes?

**Unit 3: Law and punishment**

* Different types of Crimes committed in the United States
* What are different levels of criminal proceedings in the US (Federal vs. state. vs. local)
* How does the court address adult and juvenile offenders?
* How does small claims court differ from criminal and civil court?

**Unit 4: The Business world**

* Taxes and laws governing taxes
* Small business owners and the law
* Personal income tax laws
* Consumer protection laws

[**http://www.law.washington.edu/clinics/streetlaw/lessons.aspx**](http://www.law.washington.edu/clinics/streetlaw/lessons.aspx)

[**http://www.nylf.org/law/**](http://www.nylf.org/law/)

[**http://www.nysba.org/Content/NavigationMenu/PublicResources/LawYouthCitizenshipProgram/MockTrialTournament/MockTrialArchives/Mock\_Trial\_Archives.htm**](http://www.nysba.org/Content/NavigationMenu/PublicResources/LawYouthCitizenshipProgram/MockTrialTournament/MockTrialArchives/Mock_Trial_Archives.htm)