



Blacksburg New School • 2500 No. Main St., Blacksburg VA 24060 • (540) 552-6693

## 2017-2018 Middle School World Studies

This year, social studies will be focused on US History from Reconstruction to present day. The goal in social studies is to support the civic competence of the students through knowledge, critical thinking, and multiple perspectives. This year, the social studies program will blend the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs) and the National Council for the Social Studies Themes of Social Studies.

### Driving Questions

Our time together will be focused around driving questions. These questions will guide our learning and encourage us to critically think about the world around us. Each trimester, we will explore several units of study to ultimately help develop an understanding of United States History and the impact it has had on the current world landscape. For each unit, students will receive a list of driving questions.

By the end of the course students will:

- ☆ Be familiar with the basic chronology of American history from Reconstruction to present day
- ☆ Understand the principal themes of history including: Continuity and Change, America and the World, Political Institutions, Social Change, Reform, and American Identity
- ☆ Interpret and apply data from original documents, including cartoons, graphs, letters, etc.
- ☆ Use historical data to support an argument or position
- ☆ Effectively use analytical skills of evaluation, cause and effect, compare and contrast.
- ☆ Work effectively with others to produce products and solve problems.
- ☆ Understand how geography can shape history
- ☆ Evaluate current events and connect them to historical themes

### Written Assignments

Writing is a powerful form of communication. Writing standards help us better understand each other. All work should be completed in standard MLA format, as is consistent in the Middle School program.

### Google Classroom

We will use Google Classroom as a repository for all class resources outside the textbook. Students will also have the option of turning in some assignments through Google Classrooms if they chose. All work will be graded and returned in the format in which it is turned in and/or printed and placed into your portfolio. Groups may choose to use the features available in the Google Education Suite for project collaboration.

### National History Day

Each student will complete a National History Day project. This begins as a research paper in September and will be transformed into a final project later in the year. This year's theme is *Conflict and Compromise in History*. Every student is expected to create a History Day project, though he/she may choose whether or not to compete in the official competition.

### Current Events

Each week, students will have the opportunity to explore a current event of their choice related to a specific theme. This assignment will give students the opportunity to critically explore what is happening in the world around them and make deep connections between the state of the current world and historical events.



**World Studies Plan: US History 2017-2018**

**We will focus on the following topics throughout the year:**

<b>August/September:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Historical Thinking</li><li>• Reconstruction</li><li>• Westward Expansion</li></ul>	<b>February:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reconstruction abroad and the post-war boom in the U.S.</li><li>• America as a world power</li><li>• Cold War</li></ul>
<b>October:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Immigration</li><li>• Industrialization</li></ul>	<b>March:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Civil Rights and Social Change</li></ul>
<b>November:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Imperialism</li><li>• World War I</li></ul>	<b>April:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Innovation and Influencers</li></ul>
<b>December-January:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Boom and Bust</li><li>• The New Deal and economic policy</li><li>• WWII and factors leading up to U.S. participation.</li></ul>	<b>May:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State of the world today</li><li>• Looking to the future</li></ul>

\*subject to change throughout the year

**Grading Policy**

Organization	5%
Participation	10%
Homework/Classwork	20%
Quizzes and Minor Projects	25%
Tests and Major Projects	40%