

History and Social Science

In keeping with Massachusetts History and Social Science Framework, the History and Social Science curriculum at Oak Middle School includes four specific goals for students:

- to acquire the knowledge, skill and judgment to become continuing learners – this involves acquiring specific content knowledge; gathering, interpreting and assessing facts; seeing cause and effect; comparing; noting bias and prejudice; asking questions; writing and speaking clearly
- to participate intelligently and responsibly in civic life and to respect human and civil rights for all people
- to deliberate about local, national and international issues
- to avail themselves of historical and cultural resources - historic sites, museums, parks, libraries and multimedia information sources

The Oak Middle School program is one part of a K-12 curriculum plan that is designed to offer students a sequenced course of study that emphasizes learning through the study of the United States and world history, geography, economics, and civics and government. Students study United States History from the earliest settlements to the eve of the Civil War in grade five, Ancient and Classical civilizations in the Mediterranean to the fall of the Roman Empire in grade six, World Geography in grade seven, and World History part I, A.D. / C.E. 500 - 1800 in grade eight.

At each grade level, the curriculum draws on and integrates several disciplines - fine arts, literature, science, technology, and mathematics. A unit of study may include the reading of a related novel(s), examination of primary source documents, or a research investigation on important people or achievements. Current events are also an integral part of the curriculum. Students study issues related to their own lives, important historical themes, or turning points under study.

Student progress is measured by a wide variety of assessment techniques. These may include review of assigned class work, quizzes, examinations, oral presentations, performance assessments, small group projects, and research reports. It is expected that written answers and essays demonstrate understanding of key ideas, contain appropriate support of ideas and opinions and include insightful choice of vocabulary to demonstrate understanding of content.

The program at the middle level contains a variety of extension and enrichment opportunities for students. These programs are designed to promote student awareness and celebrate student achievement. These include opportunities within the classroom as well as school-wide programs such as the National Current Events League, and the National Geographic Society's Geography Bee.

Grade 7 Geography

Students will be assessed on the following standards in Social Studies:

- Identifies political and physical features of regions
- Explains how people adapt to and affect their environment
- Analyzes the movement of people, products, and ideas
- Uses maps, charts, and graphs to analyze geographic information

These standards will be addressed through the following units of study:

South America

Asia

Sub-Saharan Africa

Europe and Russia

North Africa and the Middle East

Within these units, students will be able to:

- Identify political and physical features of places
- Use facts and details to explain how people adapt to and affect their environment
- Use facts and details to explain the economic interdependence of nations
- Use maps to interpret and communicate geographic information
- Understand and use new social studies vocabulary in reading, writing, and speaking
- Write with a clear focus and sufficient detail
- Use primary and secondary sources to interpret historical events
- Study current events as they apply to life today and as they relate to specific units of study

Grade Level/Course

Students will be assessed on the following standards in Social Studies:

- Explains the legacies of the Roman civilization
- Describes the origins and achievements of the Byzantine Empire
- Describes major developments and achievements of Islamic history
- Analyzes the development of medieval Europe
- Explains the structure and decline of feudalism
- Analyzes the origins and impact of the Renaissance
- Explains the origins and impact of the Reformation
- Analyzes the impact of European exploration
- Analyzes maps, primary sources, and other graphics to understand historical events

These standards will be addressed through the following units of study:

- Ancient Rome and the Byzantine Empire
- Islamic Empire
- Medieval Europe
- The Renaissance, Reformation, Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment
- The impact of European exploration on Aztec, Inca and Mayan Civilizations

Within these units, students will be able to:

- Use historical facts and details to explain the development of civilizations
- Analyze the history and political aspects of major empires
- Describe the foundations of economic systems throughout history
- Use primary and secondary sources to interpret historical events
- Understand and use new social studies vocabulary in reading, writing, and speaking
- Use and analyze maps, charts, graphs and timelines

The primary purpose of social studies is to help young people develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world.

- National Council for the Social Studies