**Shrewsbury’s Social Sciences Curriculum**

**Massachusetts State Social Studies Practices**

The state’s Social Studies Practices are a major focus for Shrewsbury’s social studies grades five thru Eight. Students are met where they are to develop the following skill sets:

1. Demonstrate civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions.

2. Develop focused questions or problem statements and conduct inquiries.

3. Organize information and data from multiple primary and secondary sources.

4. Analyze the purpose and point of view of each source; distinguish opinion from fact.

5. Evaluate the credibility, accuracy, and relevance of each source.

6. Argue or explain conclusions, using valid reasoning and evidence.

7. Determine next steps and take informed action, as appropriate.

**Social Sciences Curriculum 5-8**

**Grade 5 Social Studies US History:** Building on their knowledge of North American geography and peoples, students learn about the history of the colonies, the early Republic, the expansion of the United States and the growing sectional conflicts leading up to the Civil War.

**Sequence of the G5 Topics:**

1. Early colonization and growth of colonies

2. Reasons for revolution, the Revolutionary War, and the formation of government

3. Principles of United States government

4. Growth of the Republic

**Grade 6 Social Studies, Ancient Civilizations**: Students will look at the Ancient World and reflect on the present. The year offers rich opportunities for students to inquire about their world and humanity’s very long history of achievements. The themes lend themselves to exploration of what it means to be human and part of a human community. How do a people evolve into a nation- state? What are the rich cultural benefits and achievements that result? Ancient Civilizations is taught using a thematic approach based on five themes.

**Sequence of the G6 Themes:**

1. Thinking Like a Historian: How to ask meaningful questions through a historical lens, to make claims based on evidence and reasoning.

 2. Human Interaction with Their Environment: The interdependence between humans and their environment.

3. Development of Culture: Defining and understanding elements of culture.

4. Power, Expansion and Government: Expansion of civilizations and types of Government.

5. Inventions and Achievements: Students look back to create their own utopias borrowing from the civilizations they have examined.

 -Regions include but are not exclusive to Egypt, Mesopotamia, Israel, Greece, and Rome

**Grade 7 Social Studies World Geography:** Looks at the present and reflects on the past. In addition to World Geography we also include the higher order topics/issues connected to each region and global concerns. These would include the region’s: resources, economy, cultural achievements, and current events.

**Focus for student learning:**

* Identify, interpret, and analyzes maps, charts, and graphs;
* Explain how people adapt to and affect their physical and human environment; and
* Better understand and analyze the effects of globalization

**Sequence of the G7 Topics:**

1. Latin America 2. Asia 3. Middle East 4. Africa 5. Europe

**Grade 8 Social Studies U.S. Civics:** (2020-2021) Students study the roots and foundations of U.S. democracy, how and why it has developed over time, and the role of individuals in maintaining a healthy democracy. They study these topics by exploring guiding questions such as, “How have concepts of liberty and justice affected the United States democratic system of government?” and “How can power be balanced in government?” Additional supporting questions appear under each topic. The questions are included to stimulate teachers’ and students’ own questions for discussion and research.

**Sequence of the G8 Topics:**

1. The philosophical foundations of the United States political system

2. The development of the United States government

3. The institutions of the United States government

4. Rights and responsibilities of citizens Topic

5. The Constitution, Amendments, and Supreme Court decisions

6. The structure of Massachusetts state and local government

7. Freedom of the press and news/media literacy

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_