

Middle School History Department Philosophy

The curriculum of the Middle School History department is high school preparatory in nature and follows a carefully planned sequence of courses in Geography and U.S. History. We seek to develop students' analytical and critical thinking ability, so they will become good citizens and involved in their communities. Given our international student community, we also seek to instill values of open-mindedness, acceptance for other cultures, and ethical behavior.

We recognize that students learn at a variety of levels. Accordingly, we tailor our teaching to the individual student as far as is practically possible. Teachers use simulations, class debates, contests, projects and innovative technology to make the students' learning experiences lively and memorable.

Goal:

The goal of the History Department is to develop the knowledge and skills of history and geography that enable students to place the people, ideas, and events that have shaped our world in perspective and prepare them for responsible citizenship. We also seek to prepare students for their secondary education, making sure they have all the requisite skills for success.

Objectives:

- **Develop critical thinking and self-teaching skills.**
- **Teach responsible citizenship.**
- **Develop research and citation skills, using technology appropriately.**
- **Analyze content competently.**
- **Synthesize or reject arguments with reason.**
- **Expand and integrate knowledge across the social studies curriculum.**
- **Understand how cause and effect has shaped historical development of people and cultures.**
- **Provide modified instruction for non-native speakers of English.**
- **Understand and utilize the appropriate vocabulary, geographic, reference, technological, critical thinking and decision making skills.**
- **Recognize universal cultural components and manifestations in specific cultures.**
- **Relate the institutions of people to basic geographic, psychological and social needs.**

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- **Understand the fundamental principles of American democracy and government, and the relevant institutions.**

Course offerings:

World History 6

World Geography 7

U.S. History

Strengths of the Program:

- **The program receives strong support from the Media Center.**
- **Technology is incorporated into instruction.**
- **Small class size allows greater attention to individual students.**

Recommendations to improve the program:

- **Consider increasing the available collection of VHS and DVD materials to better support curricula.**
- **Consider linking classroom computers to Student Wireless network for in-class research projects.**