

Grade 8 Social Studies

Welcome to Grade 8 Social Studies!

The focus of this class is World History. Students will explore societies of the past and make connections between the past and present. They will examine the origins of human societies from early hunter-gatherer ways of life to societies of the nineteenth century. They study significant people, ideas, and events of historical periods that have shaped the modern world and consider the implications of contact between diverse societies. As they explore selected past societies, students will become aware of differing world views and factors that influence change in societies. They will assess the influence of the past on the present and develop an appreciation for the historical significance of past societies and civilizations.

There are 5 clusters in this class which will look at; Understanding societies past and present, Early societies of Mesopotamia, the Indus Valley and Egypt, Ancient societies of Greece and Rome, Middle Ages, the Ottoman and Mongol Empires, the Renaissance and the Industrial Revolution.

Assessment tools and strategies

Assessment tools and strategies will be based on individual and group inquiry, research, hands-on projects, journals, interviews, oral presentations, tests, quizzes, organization, writing assignments and other assignments given as the course progresses. Students will have a number of formative and summative assessments and marks will be cumulative throughout the year.

Classroom Expectations

- Arrive on time and be prepared to learn, work hard and have fun.
- Complete all homework assignments. Homework will be assigned when students are not able to complete their assignments in class or if students are absent.
- Following the deadline of any assignment, the student's mark will be recorded as zero. Upon completion of the assignment, it will be graded and recorded. At reporting periods, a final deadline will be given for the evaluations to take effect on the report card for that reporting period.
- If you are absent (due to illness) or know you will be absent (due to a field trip or for personal reasons), it is your responsibility to catch up. If you are absent on the day of a test, it is your responsibility to arrange a time to write the test on another date. This should be done immediately on your return to school.
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated and any student found to have plagiarized work will receive a mark of zero until the assignment is redone. Any plagiarism will result in a conversation with the student, classroom teacher, parents/guardians, and possibly administration.
- Extra Help – If students need extra help, I am available at lunch hour, and arrangements can also be made before and after school.
- Know and abide by the code of conduct (available in the student handbook).
- As per the student code of conduct, cell phones are not allowed in school at any time by grade 8 students unless prior permission for an activity has been granted by the Principal.