

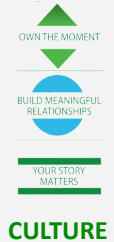




Mason City Schools Social Studies Compass

Principles to Guide PK-12 Social Studies Learning Experiences and Resource Selection

Inquiry is at the core of quality social studies instruction; learners investigate, analyze, and construct ideas grounded in evidence as they learn about human societies and social relationships. Social studies instruction builds students' skills in understanding and analyzing people and societies - including but not limited to history, geography, government, economics and current events - so that they are prepared to take meaningful action in a world of continuous and accelerating change. Comprehensive social studies learning provides students the opportunity to reflect upon and share their own experiences while also learning about and respectfully expressing curiosity about those of others.

Mason City Schools' PK-12 social studies learning experience is grounded in the adopted standards and our 3 Big Rocks: Culture, Inclusive Excellence, and Personalized Learning. This Social Studies Compass identifies how our Big Rocks inform the PK-12 social studies learning experiences we strive to create for our learners. Underlying each of the implications discussed below is a belief that students should engage in meaningful, authentic, and rigorous learning opportunities that empower them to think critically, engage in meaningful civil discourse, and build intellectual skill in physically and psychologically safe classroom spaces.

BIG ROCK	MCS DEFINITION	IMPLICATIONS FOR MCS PK-12 SOCIAL STUDIES LEARNING EXPERIENCES
 <p>CULTURE</p>	<p>We recognize that our school community is defined by our beliefs, our behaviors, and the experiences our behaviors produce for others.</p>	<p>Learners build skill in exploring and understanding how their own identity, perspectives, and lived experiences shape their understanding of people, societies, and events, both historical and current.</p> <p>Learners engage as readers, writers and thinkers as they analyze their own and others' ideas, construct and communicate new ideas, and listen with empathy.</p> <p>Learners develop their ability to engage in civil discourse that provides opportunities to respectfully listen to differing perspectives, share their own opinions, and acknowledge others' viewpoints. Ultimately, students develop a greater understanding of how people's choices and actions are interconnected and impact others.</p>
 <p>INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE</p>	<p>We are committed to deepening our appreciation for diversity and our commitment to equity, inclusion and justice.</p>	<p>Learners see themselves and learn about others in their instructional materials and resources. Learning experiences and environments honor the diverse identities and perspectives within our classrooms and broader community.</p> <p>Learners engage in experiences that meet their learning needs within physical and digital environments that leverage their curiosity and support high expectations for all.</p> <p>Learners develop their ability to analyze a variety of primary and secondary sources, discern fact from fiction, identify potential bias, and grow the knowledge, skills, and experiences needed to become respectful and engaged global citizens.</p>
 <p>PERSONALIZED LEARNING</p>	<p>We support the growth of self-navigating learners who take increasing ownership of their learning as they deeply engage in challenges that are meaningful, authentic, rigorous, and grounded in adopted standards.</p>	<p>Learners are empowered to build on their skills, interests, curiosities, and experiences to make meaningful connections and expand their knowledge, viewpoints, and understanding of the world past, present, and future.</p> <p>Learners demonstrate understanding through meaningful, authentic, and rigorous learning challenges involving inquiry, research, critical thinking, and problem solving skills. Opportunities to explore real world applications are embedded in the learning experience.</p> <p>Learners connect with and leverage local, national, and global community connections to take meaningful action and impact the world around them.</p>