



Social Studies Education in Noblesville Schools

Philosophy of Social Studies Education

The aim of social studies education in Noblesville Schools is for learners to be advocates for a just, free, and equal democratic society. Learners will acquire the necessary knowledge, skills, and mindset to make informed decisions in a global environment.

Mission-related Program Goals for Social Studies Education

Learners will

- Apply key concepts from history, civics, economics, geography and other social sciences to the present as well as the future.
- Analyze primary and secondary sources in terms of credibility, historical context, author's purpose, and audience.
- Form, articulate, and defend an opinion while respecting other viewpoints.
- Synthesize information from various sources and perspectives, consider multiple causes and outcomes, and acknowledge incremental progress.
- Think through the lens of the social studies disciplines (historian, geographer, economist, political scientist, sociologist, or psychologist) when considering phenomena.
- Engage with peers and with the community to effect positive change.

K-12 Social Studies Program Beliefs

Social Studies learning

- Models and develops democratic values of justice, equality, and freedom of thought and speech.
- Emphasizes critical, creative, and ethical thinking about enduring social issues and their connections with students' lives.
- Develops deep understanding through multiple interpretations of complex events.
- Occurs when students actively construct meaning, reasoning to conclusions rather than learning about the actions and conclusions of others.
- Integrates many disciplines within the field (history, economics, geography, civics, sociology, psychology) and without (literature, mathematics, world languages and cultures, science, visual and performing arts, business, mass media, technology).
- Involves skills in collaboration, information gathering and analysis, inquiry, critical thinking, communication, data analysis, use of technology, reading, and writing.
- Encourages and fosters inquiry, lifelong learning, and active engagement in the community.