

Social Studies: Geography, Civics, & American History

Mr. Phillips Griffin, MPA
griffinp@trinityknights.org

Objectives

Students will develop an understanding of the world, its people, places, governments, and history in the Social Studies class. Students will learn to think critically about the world through investigations in geography, civics, and history. The knowledge and skills developed in Social Studies will lay the foundation for student development as effective and critical citizens of their communities, nation, and world.

Curriculum

6th Grade: World Geography

Students will follow a regional approach to studying the world's geography, cultures, and history. Each unit will begin with a geographic study of the region, including the creation and memorization of political and physical maps. Students will use the Five Themes and Six Essential Elements of Geography as a framework for study. Each regional unit will also include a survey of the physical and human geography of the region. The goal of the course is for students to develop geographic literacy and a general understanding of the world and its cultures.

Textbook: *World Geography, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt* (ISBN: 978-0-544-66873-7)

7th Grade: Civics & Government

Students will engage in critical thinking and discussions while studying our civic systems, history, and government of the United States. The course is designed to promote an increased understanding of our constitutional democracy and the fundamental principles and values on which they are founded. Students will develop the skills needed to become effective and responsible citizens, increase their understanding and use of democratic processes when making decisions, and managing conflict, in both public and private life.

Textbook: *Civics Houghton Mifflin Harcourt* (ISBN: 978-0-544-91713-2)

8th Grade: U.S. History

Students will examine the history of the United States from 1600 to 1876 through discussions, readings, historical analysis, and research. Students are expected to actively engage in the learning process by taking ownership of their education, asking questions, and seeking quality answers. Students will conduct a history fair research project in the first semester to present at the school history fair in the second semester. Students will develop the skills of historical analysis, investigative inquiry, and the critical examination of history.

Textbook: *United States History Houghton Mifflin Harcourt* (ISBN: 978-0-544-45414-9)

Grading Scale

Final grades each quarter are calculated by dividing the number of points earned by the total number of points possible.

Points Averages	
Daily Assignments	10-25 pts
Quizzes	25-75 pts
Tests & Projects	50- 150 pts

Supplies

Students are expected to come to class prepared with all required materials. The notebook should be kept neat and organized to better facilitate learning. . Students are responsible for the care and maintenance of all textbooks issued to them. Textbooks must be covered at all times. Lost or damaged books may incur a charge for replacement.

- “Notebook” (Red three-ring binder with two sections: Guided Notes, Classwork)
- Pencil, blue or black pen
- Issued textbook

Communication

Google Classroom

Google Classroom is a collaboration tool for teachers and students. Teachers create an online classroom, invite students to the class then create and distribute assignments. Within the Google Classroom students and teachers can have conversations about the assignments and teachers can track the student's progress. This is an organizational tool for the students to see all assignments and to-do lists in one place. Parents are able to receive communication as well to see what the students are working on.

E-mail

The most effective method of communication between teacher and parents is e-mail. Parents should expect to receive a reply from the teacher within 24 hours. Students may confer directly with the teacher to resolve any questions or concerns. Students may use their school-issued email account to communicate, if there is not an opportunity in class.

Powerschool

Parents and students are responsible for checking PowerSchool on a regular basis to monitor progress. Please bring concerns to the teacher’s attention as soon as they appear. Parents and teachers will work together to promote student progress. Questions regarding access to PowerSchool should be directed to the front office.

Classroom AI Policy

Each classroom teacher will establish and clearly communicate an AI policy that outlines permissible and impermissible student use. These policies, tailored to the subject's needs and students' developmental readiness and instructional goals, will be published in each grade/subject syllabus. Students are expected to adhere to their classroom's specific AI guidelines at all times. The Classroom AI Policy is attached to this syllabus.