Lower School Social Studies Overview

The Germantown Academy Lower School Social Studies program is informed by three curricular frameworks: National Council for Social Studies, C3 Framework for College, Career and Civic Life and Learning for Justice framework. Social Studies units emphasize **inquiry-based learning** with **compelling questions** at the center of each unit of study: civics, economics, geography, and history. Students engage with **primary and secondary sources,** including **field experiences,** to build their content knowledge and broaden their perspectives. Each unit culminates in a **taking informed action project** where students demonstrate their learning in the context of our school or local community.

EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPELLING QUESTIONS

PREK

- Who am I?
- Is voting the best way to make a decision?
- Where does all the garbage go?
- Why do we need community helpers?

KINDERGARTEN

- Why do I have to be responsible?
- What does it mean to vote?
- Can we get everything we want and need?
- Who am I, inside and out?
- Why do we need maps?

FIRST GRADE

- Why do communities need leaders?
- Why is food important to our families?
- Where do families get their food and why?
- How can we help people who need food?
- Where does our food come from?

SECOND GRADE

- What defines our GA community?
- How can you help influence change in your community?
- What can we learn from communities beyond our home and school?
- How and why do communities grow and change?
- How can you affect positive change in your community?