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.

UPPER ELEMENTARY COMPELLING QUESTIONS

THIRD GRADE

- **What can we learn from the culture of the Lenape?**
- **How does where you live impact how you live?**
- **Rules and Laws: Do we need them?**
- **How did the lives of Indigenous people grow and change over time?**
- **How do Africa's contributions impact our lives today?**

FOURTH GRADE

- **Does it matter how leaders are chosen?**
- **What moved American colonists to fight for independence?**
- **How does innovation impact our country?**
- **In what ways did the Harlem Renaissance move people and ideas to new perspectives and opportunities?**
- **How has immigration shaped America today?**

FIFTH GRADE

- **What makes a culture unique and how can we learn to respect differences?**
- **What makes a place important to the people who live there?**
- **Why is the right to vote important?**
- **In what ways did people use their 1st amendment rights to make changes during the civil rights era?**
- **How can we work towards a more just and equitable society for all?**