

8th Grade Social Studies – St. Joseph Catholic School

Social Studies is the coordinated, systematic, and integrated study of society which provides for the teaching and learning of civic competence and social understanding. Its primary purpose is to enable young people to develop life-long ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world. (NCSS)

General Course Description:

This class is the study of United States history from the Industrial Revolution to World War II, with a beginning unit on the foundations of civic education (the U.S. Constitution). There is a brief review of material that was covered in 5th grade which is the study of United States history from pre-colonial times through the Civil War. A major emphasis is placed on perfecting the social studies essay, and analyzing history not only in the era but across the timeline.

Standards Used:

The standards from the National Council of Social Sciences along with the Michigan State Standards for social studies are used.

NCSS: <https://www.mhschool.com/socialstudies/2009/teacher/pdf/ncss.pdf>

Michigan: http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753_64839_65510-337986--,00.html

The Archdiocese of Detroit is also working on a set of standards for social sciences that will be ready in 2017-2018.

Main Goals of Class:

- Work cooperatively in groups to solve a focus question on a social studies theme in U.S. history
- Improve writing in social sciences an explanatory, opinion, and comparative essay
- Practice oral presentations and debate skills
- Learn the skill of critical thinking in relationship to historical events and people
- Develop an understanding of basic economics
- Develop skills in researching, statistics, and maps and graphs
- Analyze political cartoons from the past and current events of history
- Develop skills in identifying reliable sources, primary sources, and secondary sources
- Develop an ability to make informed and reasoned decisions and opinions
- Research and create related projects using a variety of methods
- Understand and analyze the framework of democracy and the U.S. Constitution

Main Text and Resources:

- *History Alive! The United States Through Modern Times* Curriculum Institute (TCI) copyright 2014 (textbook, online notebook subscription is used) <https://teachtci.com>
- *MobyMax* online www.mobymax.com