

Dear Parent,



We're excited to have your student in Social Studies at Whitmore Lake High School.

Each year, we build on the skills that your student has already learned, as well as introduce new ones. See this side of the brochure for details about what we're doing this year in Social Studies.

At home, your student should be encouraged to practice the skills he/she is learning at school. See the other side of this brochure for easy things that you can do to encourage that practice.

By working together, we can make sure that your student acquires the skills he or she needs to be successful in school and life.

We look forward to working with you and your student this year. When you have questions, please feel free to contact us at 449-4461.

Sincerely,
The High School
Social Studies Department

In every grade, we teach Social Studies skills that will help students:

Express informed opinions

- Gather information from books, maps, newspapers, graphs, charts, and timelines.
- Construct maps, graphs, and timelines.
- Investigate why different people have different points of view.
- Take a position on an issue and defend it.

Think historically

- Understand time and order of events.
- Comprehend, analyze, and interpret the past.
- Judge the causes and effects of key historical decisions.

Describe our world

- Explain global issues and events.
- Describe, compare, and explain location, characteristics of people, places, cultures.
- Understand the human impact on the environment.
- Understand how the environment affects trade and economies.

Be effective citizens

- Be a good citizen by following laws, rules.
- Know purposes of governing bodies and assess their effectiveness.
- Know the core Democratic values.
- Compare checks and balances at all government levels.
- Recognize that nations in the world interact with one another.

Make informed economic decisions

- Explain goods and services.
- Describe supply and demand.

In high school, we teach Social Studies skills that will help your student:

Express informed opinions

- Read about public issues to understand them from more than one perspective.
- Discuss public issues with others in order to clarify the issues, consider opposing views, apply core democratic values, and make educated decisions about the issues.
- Compose well-written essays that express a position on a public issue and support the position with a logical argument.

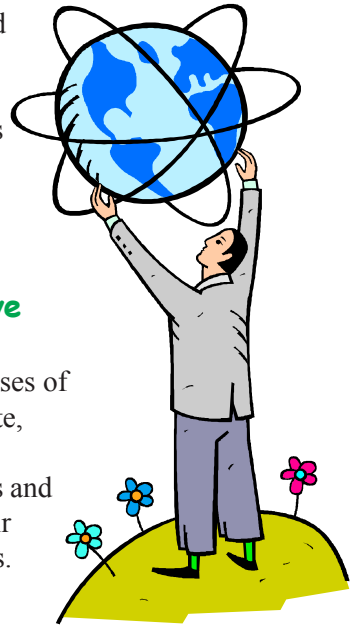


Think historically

- Place eras of American history and key events within these eras in chronological order.
- Identify the people involved in, the setting of, and the results of eras and events in American and world history.
- Analyze a variety of different types of primary sources (letters, diaries, photographs, documents, artifacts, etc.) in order to understand different interpretations of key historical events.
- Revisit and evaluate key decisions made throughout history by studying their implications and long-term consequences, as well as the possible consequences of alternative choices.

Describe our world

- Describe, compare, and explain the locations of places, cultures, and settlements in major world regions.
- Understand the human impact on the environment and the consequences it brings.
- Describe the locations and characteristics of economic activities, trade, information flow, and migration.
- Understand cultural and economic characteristics of major world regions and the historical processes that created them.
- Describe and explain the causes and consequences of global issues and events.



Be effective citizens

- Know purposes of national, state, and local governments and evaluate their effectiveness.
- Understand the core democratic values on which the United States government is built.
- Describe the process by which decisions are made and conflicts are solved in our democracy.
- Explain how power is shared and limited within the American system of government.

Be effective citizens

- Recognize that the United States is part of an interconnected world that requires citizens to have knowledge of global politics and foreign policy.



Make informed economic decisions

- Use knowledge of the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services in order to make sound personal, economic, and societal decisions.
- Understand how personal economic decision-making affects individuals and society.
- Explain how businesses use limited resources and the consequences business choices have on society.
- Describe the role of government in the economy.
- Explain how a free-market economic system works and compare it to other economic systems.
- Describe the challenges and benefits of world trade on individuals, producers, and government.



Express informed opinions

- Talk to your student about current events in newspapers, television shows, magazines, etc.
- Discuss current events and differing points of views on controversial issues.
- Ask your student his/her opinion on issues and specific reasons to support those positions.
- Encourage your student to volunteer for causes s/he supports.

Think historically

- Discuss similarities and differences between current events and events of the past.
- Encourage your student to talk to older family members about events they experienced during their lives.
- Watch and discuss historical TV shows and movies.
- Travel to historical sites.
- Encourage your student to read historical novels, magazines, and biographies.

Describe our world

- Encourage an understanding and appreciation of other cultures and ways of life.
- Expose your student to people, foods, art, and literature from other cultures.
- Discuss global issues and events and how they affect your student's life.
- Travel and have your student "navigate" using maps.

Be effective citizens

- Vote in all elections and discuss the experience with your student.
- Encourage your student to participate in the political process through volunteering.
- Model and encourage good citizenship.
- Familiarize your student with government agencies and processes, and how government can be used to help solve local, state, and federal problems.

Make informed economic decisions

- Discuss daily and long-term economic choices the family makes and point out the economic impact these choices have on family and social stability.
- Open a savings and/or checking account for your student and assist him/her in managing the accounts.
- Model and encourage responsible budgeting, saving and spending.
- Teach your student how to use newspapers to track investments.



Whitmore Lake High School

In high school, we're teaching your student important citizenship skills.

What are these skills?

How can you help your student practice them?



*...exceptional,
personalized education*

For more good ideas, ask your student's teacher, or contact:

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