



Blacksburg New School • 2500 No. Main St., Blacksburg VA 24060 • (540) 552-6693

2023-2024 Middle School World Studies

This year, social studies will be focused on US History from Reconstruction to present day. The goal in social studies is to support the civic competence of the students through knowledge, critical thinking, and multiple perspectives. This year, the social studies program will blend the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs) and the National Council for the Social Studies Themes of Social Studies.

By the end of the course students will:

- ☆ Be familiar with the basic chronology of American history from Reconstruction to present day
- ☆ Understand the principal themes of history including: Continuity and Change, America and the World, Political Institutions, Social Change, Reform, and American Identity
- ☆ Interpret and apply data from original documents, including cartoons, graphs, letters, etc.
- ☆ Use historical data to support an argument or position
- ☆ Effectively use analytical skills of evaluation, cause and effect, compare and contrast.
- ☆ Work effectively with others to produce products and solve problems.
- ☆ Understand how geography can shape history
- ☆ Evaluate current events and connect them to historical themes

Written Assignments

Writing is a powerful form of communication. Writing standards help us better understand each other. All work should be completed in standard MLA format, as is consistent in the Middle School program.

Canvas

We will use Canvas as a repository for all class resources outside the textbook. Students will also have the option of turning in some assignments through Canvas if they chose. All work will be graded and returned in the format in which it is turned in and/or printed and placed into your portfolio. Groups may choose to use the features available in the Google Education Suite for project collaboration.

National History Day

Each student will complete a National History Day project. This begins as a research paper in September and will be transformed into a final project later in the year. This year's theme is *Turning Points in History*. Every student is expected to create a History Day project, though they may choose whether or not to compete in the official competition.



World Studies Plan: US History 2020-2021

We will focus on the following topics throughout the year:

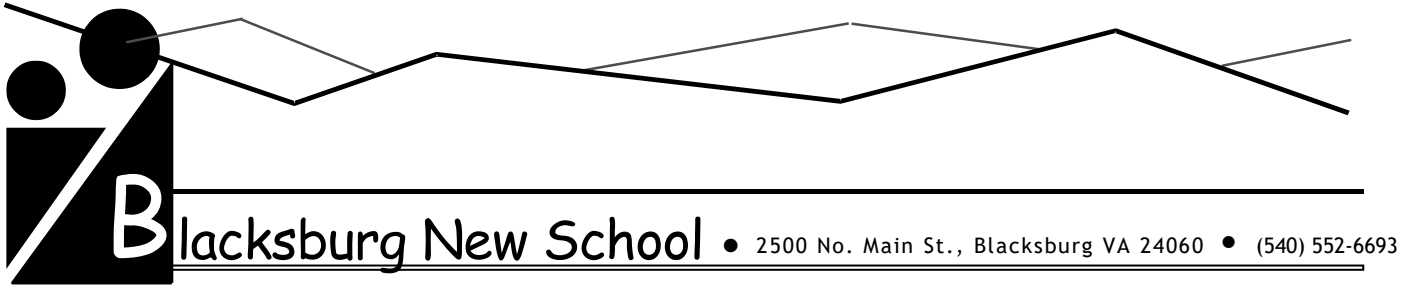
<p>August/September:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Thinking- How do historians construct the past? • Founding Documents- What do Americans value? 	<p>February:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWII • Post- WWII Conflicts
<p>End of September/October:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconstruction • Life at the Turn of the 20th Century <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ American Imperialism ○ Immigration ○ Westward Expansion 	<p>March:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Rights
<p>November:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressive Solutions to “Modern” Problems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Industrialism ○ Civil Rights 	<p>April/May:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Popular Culture
<p>December/January:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The World At War • Roaring 20s • Great Depression 	<p>National History Day Research Project</p> <p>Throughout the year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic choice and narrowed focus • Research using multiple secondary sources • Research using primary sources • Organization of research notes • Critical analysis of information: essay • Creation of NHD project conforming to rules • Presentation of NHD project (competition optional)

*subject to change throughout the year

Grading Policy

The following shows the break-down used to generate trimester and year-end grades for students:

Organization/Participation	15%
Homework/Classwork	20%
Quiz and Minor Project Performance	30%
Test and Major Project Performance	35%



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