

Spectrum Social Studies Department Philosophy

The goal of social studies education is to prepare students to be responsible and productive citizens in a democratic society amid a globally interdependent world. Through an integrated study of social studies disciplines, students will acquire the necessary knowledge, skills, and attitudes as they become lifelong learners. Social Studies provides content that students will use to understand political, social, and economic issues and apply their knowledge and skills to make effective personal and public decisions. A standards based social studies curriculum builds knowledge of specific discipline content, thinking skills, commitment to democratic values, and citizen participation, all essential to maintaining a democratic way of life.

Spectrum Social Studies Department Goals

Students will be able to independently use their learning to:

- Understand how recurring patterns in history can inform judgments about current events and other issues.
- Analyze and resolve conflicts in order to work and live cooperatively with others.
- Understand how physical and human geography can inform responsible interactions with the environment.
- Apply knowledge of political and social systems to participate actively as an informed citizen of a democracy.
- Critically appraise historical and contemporary claims/decisions.
- Apply concepts and systems of economics to participate productively in a global economy.
- Think critically about information and claims encountered at school and beyond by seeking clarity, accuracy, sound evidence, good reasons, and fairness.
- Locate pertinent information from varied sources (print, on-line; primary, secondary).
- Critically evaluate sources and information (e.g., for accuracy, completeness, timeliness, lack of bias, properly referenced)

Curriculum Resources

The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography, Rubenstein
Economics, Prentice Hall
Foundations in Personal Finance, Ramsey
United State Government: Democracy in Action, Glencoe
World Geography and Cultures, National Geographic
World History & Geography, McGraw Hill

Standards and Content Resources

[Minnesota Department of Education Standards Page](#)