

WELCOME TO SOCIAL STUDIES AT LAREDO MIDDLE SCHOOL.

All social studies classes at Laredo Middle School seek to expand skills and knowledge with regard to critical thinking, literacy and historical investigation. In order to achieve this, teachers utilize the following tools and strategies: Document Based Questions and CIQAC writings, hands-on activities, research projects, analyzing and deciphering complex texts, Socratic Seminars, Philosophical chairs, Thinking Maps as well as debates.

Colorado Social Studies Academic Standards

History—History develops moral understanding, defines identity and creates an appreciation of how things change while building skills in judgment and decision-making. History enhances the ability to read varied sources and develop the skills to analyze, interpret and communicate.

Geography—Geography provides students with an understanding of spatial perspectives and technologies for spatial analysis, awareness of interdependence of world regions and resources and how places are connected at local, national and global scales.

Economics—Economics teaches how society manages its scarce resources, how people make decisions, how people interact in the domestic and international markets and how forces and trends affect the economy as a whole. Personal financial literacy applies the economic way of thinking to help individuals understand how to manage their own scarce resources using a logical decision-making process of prioritization based on analysis of the costs and benefits of every choice.

Civics—Civics teaches the complexity of the origins, structure and functions of governments; the rights, roles and responsibilities of ethical citizenship; the importance of law; and the skills necessary to participate in all levels of government.

Course Descriptions

Social Studies 6—The 6th grade year is focused upon building students' capacities to think and act as "experts" in the Social Sciences. Students will question multiple perspectives of past and present societies while examining change. The sixth grade curriculum uses the following frameworks to teach the Colorado Academic Standards:

- Introduction to Geography
- Ancient civilizations of the Americas: Mayan, Aztec and Inca
- Conquest of the Americas
- Globalization and the western hemisphere: our place in the world

Social Studies 7— Utilizing the MYP philosophy, Laredo strives to develop global learners. This belief is instilled in 7th graders by allowing them to explore their lives in a global community in hope of recognizing the connections with one another. This ideal will carry through to all units of study. The study will center on ancient history to modern times and major concepts such as globalization, philosophies, world religions, and current events will be at the forefront of the lessons. The seventh grade curriculum uses the following frameworks to teach the Colorado Academic Standards:

- River civilizations: ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt and India
- Ancient Greece and Rome
- Ancient China
- Major religions of the eastern hemisphere

Social Studies 8— Students will study the historical foundations of America. Beginning with the foundations of government, students will highlight important eras such as the American Revolution, the writing of the US Constitution, the New Nation, the expansion of the country (as well as the expansion of rights), the Civil War and Reconstruction period. Students will focus their attention on understanding the complexity of issues surrounding questions such as, “Why do people need government?” and “How does the past shape the future?” Students will build on the skills learned from sixth and seventh grade to practice historical inquiry using primary and secondary source documents. This course requires students to gain a firm understanding of the first half (1600-1870) of American history so that they will be prepared for the second half (1870-present) of American history in high school. The eighth grade curriculum uses the following frameworks to teach the Colorado Academic Standards:

- Introduction to American History
- Colonization the road to revolution
- The U.S. Constitution
- A New Nation
- Westward expansion
- Civil war and Reconstruction

Erin Spry

Department Coordinator

720-886-5296

espry@cherrycreekschools.org