

# WOODWARD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Seventh Grade Social Studies

September 2007

The seventh grade social studies curriculum contains two major strands: World History from the beginnings of early civilizations through the Age of Exploration, and Washington Studies. Seventh grade social studies teachers work together to present a unified course of study tied to district curriculum guidelines, the Essential Learnings for the State of Washington and the National Standards for World History.

## Overview of World History Strand

In September we begin our study of World History. We move forward through the year in the following way:

- A short geography unit;
- Early civilizations;
- Faith and belief before the modern age;
- Classical traditions, including Greece and Rome;
- The rise of Islam;
- Feudalism in Europe and Japan;
- The Renaissance/Reformation; and
- The Age of Exploration
- Included in this tour we introduce the beginnings and evolution of world religions – Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

As we work our way through these time periods, we will analyze the revolutionary changes that took place during each era of human history. The basic text is World History, the Human Experience, supported by related materials and other resources. Each 7<sup>th</sup> grade student has been issued his or her own copy for which he or she is responsible (replacement cost is \$60 if the book is not returned in June). This text is interesting for adults as well as students; you may find reading the text out loud to your student allows for great interaction and deeper learning on the part of your student.

## Overview of Washington Studies Strand

World History ends at the end of April and a grade will be given that will appear on report cards. Then we move into an interdisciplinary course incorporating science and literature as well as social studies to fulfill the state graduation requirements in Washington State History. It is important that both students and parents understand that students must pass each section of this integrated course in order to fulfill Washington State high school graduation requirements. Students who fail to pass Washington Studies will have to repeat the course in high school in order to graduate.

For Washington Studies we will use a text called Washington in the Pacific Northwest by Green and Carlson. This text will be used primarily in class and will not be assigned to each student.

### **Focus for students**

Our focus throughout the year is as much on how to learn, where to find information, and/or how to present information effectively, as it is on content. Given the amount of historical time covered throughout this course, it is necessary to focus on mastery of core concepts, themes and events and to tie these events to the students' world today.

### **Preparation**

All students are expected to come prepared to class each day with Woodward's planner, pencil and LA/SS binder, as well as completed homework. Class work that is not completed during class becomes homework. In case of absence, students may refer to each teacher's website and their online calendar to find out the assignments he/she missed. Any student may stay after school for individual help or work time provided he/she has obtained permission from both teacher and parent.

### **Field Trips!**

As part of the active learning process, students will participate in several field trips throughout the year, the specifics of which are yet to be determined. These are interesting field trips where our parent chaperones often say they learned as much as their student. Please plan to join us on one or two of these trips as they arise. Your help makes these trips go so much more smoothly.

We hope that this information has been helpful. Please feel free to call or email us with any questions or concerns. Together, we can make this a highly successful and productive year for these wonderful young people. Thank you.

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