

# Social Studies Planning and Implementation

Grades 5 - 8

**In April, we had a staff meeting to talk about Social Studies planning for next year as a 5-8 staff**

- We decided that SS would be taught during the 30 minute RTI/Enrichment time in the proposed schedule. That time is now called Social Studies in the schedule.
- We decided that to move forward we needed to identify what topics would be covered and by which grade level.
- We decided that there would be time needed to help with this planning.
- We then moved forward with our plan of attack.

**Mr. Klett has been working with our committee on our School Continuous Improvement Plan (SCIP)**

**Social Studies is an area that we have identified as a part of this plan. The lack of a true scope and sequence was identified as being a major problem.**

# IIRC - Rising Star Indicator IIIA01

All teachers are guided by a document that aligns standards, curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

This was not true for Social Studies so the SCIP team decided to address this issue

# Social Studies Plan of Action

Social Studies unit plans will be developed by the Instructional Team to define a unit of instruction and outline the standards and target objectives addressed in the unit of instruction. Information needed to provide evidence that this objective is fully met will be seen in lesson plans that are collected weekly.

# Task 1 - Develop Social Studies Instructional Team

All core course teachers will be a part of this team along with volunteers.

## Task 2 - Determine what topics will be taught at each grade level

Keep in mind that Social Studies is now taught as a 30-minute block and integrated into other subjects.

# Task 3 - The following will be completed for each unit:

1. Determine the concepts, principles, and skills that will be covered within the unit.
2. Identify the standards/benchmarks that apply to the grade level and unit topic.
3. Develop all objectives that clearly align to the selected standards/benchmarks.
4. Arrange the objectives in sequential order.
5. Determine the best objective descriptors.
6. Consider the most appropriate elements for mastery and construct criteria for mastery.
7. Develop pre/post-test items that are clear and specific and would provide evidence of mastery consistent with the criteria established.

With each grade level's topics identified, each team is getting a release day for planning the first unit and all SIP day's will be devoted to this next year 5-8.

The 8th grade had their planning day on Friday. After each planning day, teachers will write a synopsis of their work completed and information will get posted to the blog for parents to see progress.

# 5th Grade Units of Study-- Early US History

Exploration

Colonization

American Revolution

Westward movement

Civil War

\* This is similar to what is currently being taught with additional topics due to additional time

# 6th Grade Units of Study -- Ancient Civilization

Ancient Egypt

Ancient Greece

Ancient Rome

Ancient China and India

Mesopotamia

\* This is similar to what is currently being taught with additional topics due to additional time

# 7th Grade Units of Study -- World History and Geography

## Medieval Europe

European Renaissance and Age of  
Enlightenment

Pre Columbian New World

World Geography (from 1400's to 1780's)

\*This is the only grade level that is drastically different  
but these topics were not being covered.

# 8th Grade Units of Study -- U.S. History

Reconstruction

20th Century through the Modern Era

\*With the exception of reconstruction this is similar to what is currently being taught but the Illinois Constitution has been moved to NBHS

# Next Steps...

We will continue to work on completing the units and creating assessments.

We will have a comprehensive scope and sequence including unit plans done by March 2015.

Kudos to the teachers for digging in and planning to make SS integration best practice for our students.