

**NORTH BRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Essential Curriculum**  
**Social Studies**

***Grade 6***

**Ancient History**

Upon completion of grade 6, students will be able to:

- Recognize the relationship between geography and history.
- Examine the culture of early man.
- Evaluate the achievements of early man.
- Become familiar with the development of ancient civilization of Mesopotamia.
- Study the development and contributions of ancient Egypt.
- Explore various other Eastern River Valley civilizations.
- Investigate the beginning of the Greek civilization.
- Determine the importance of the Greek city-states.
- Appreciate the contributions of the Greeks.
- Summarize the development of the Roman Empire
- Describe the basic foundation of the Roman Republic.
- Analyze the expansion of the Roman Empire and its effect on other cultures.
- Explain the role of Christianity in the Roman Empire.
- Become familiar with the following major religions of the world; Christianity, Judaism, Islamic, Hinduism, and Buddhism.
- Appreciate the effects the Germans had on the end of the Roman Empire.
- Discuss the creation of the Holy Roman Empire and its effect on Europe.
- Describe reasons for the Crusades.

**NORTH BRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Essential Curriculum**  
**Social Studies**

***Grade 7***

**Geography**

Upon completion of grade 7, students will be able to:

- Identify and analyze the five themes of geography.
- Develop map reading skills.
- Examine Earth's physical geography.
- Examine Earth's human geography.
- Identify and examine physical characteristics of the United States and Canada.
- Analyze the human characteristics of the United States and Canada.
- Investigate and discuss current events concerning United States and Canada.
- Identify and examine physical characteristics of Latin America.
- Analyze the human characteristics of Latin America.
- Investigate and discuss current events concerning Latin America.
- Identify and examine physical characteristics of Europe.
- Analyze the human characteristics of Europe.
- Investigate and discuss current events concerning Europe.
- Identify and examine physical characteristics of North and Central Asia.
- Analyze the human characteristics of North and Central Asia.
- Investigate and discuss current events concerning North and Central Asia.

**NORTH BRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Essential Curriculum**  
**Social Studies**

***Grade 8***

**U.S. History**

Upon completion of grade 8, students will be able to:

- Explain the impact the French and Indian War had on Parliament and the colonies.
- Understand the major causes and battles of the Revolutionary War.
- Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation.
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge the U.S. Constitution.
- Discuss the administrations of our first presidents.
- Explain the Age of Jefferson and its effects on democracy.
- Discuss the rise of the first political parties and analyze their differences.
- Explain the Industrial Revolution and its effect on the American economy and social life.
- Appreciate the effects of the Jacksonian Era on American life.
- Trace westwards expansion.
- Understand the causes and result of the Mexican War.
- Analyze the economic, social, and political differences of life in the North and South.
- Understand the major reforms in pre-Civil War America and their effect on American life.
- Explain the major causes of the Civil War.
- Appreciate the major battles and people of the Civil War.
- Explain Reconstruction and analyze the lasting effects of Reconstruction on American life.
- Describe the settlement of the West and its effect on Native Americans.
- Appreciate the rise of big business and its economic, social, and political effect on America.
- Analyze the Age of Immigration and its effect on America.
- Appreciate the efforts and reforms of America society during the Progressive Era.
- Understand the causes and results of the Spanish American War.
- Discuss the United States involvement with Latin America post Spanish-American War
- Analyze the causes, major battles of, and efforts of World War I.
- Understand the post war feelings in America.
- Appreciate the economic, social, and political changes of the Roaring Twenties.
- Analyze the causes and efforts of the Great Depression.
- Examine the strengths and weaknesses of the New Deal.
- Appreciate the presidency of FDR.
- Understand the causes and effects, major battles, and people of World War II.
- Recognize how the Cold War affected our nation and the world.
- Explain the reasons for and results of the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts.
- Discuss the unrest of the 1960's and 1970's

- Understand America's role and responsibilities in today's world.
- The effects on terrorism on life in America.

**NORTH BRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Essential Curriculum**  
**Social Studies**

**North Branford High School requires three years of Social Studies. World History is required in Grade 9, United States History in Grade 10, and Contemporary Issues and Civics in Grade 12. Students are encouraged to take our electives in Grade 11.**

***Grade 9***

**World History**

Upon completion of grade 9, students will be able to:

- Explain the origins, development and achievements of early humans.
- Analyze the process by which early peoples organized their societies.
- Explain how the interaction of ancient peoples has helped shape modern civilization.
- Appreciate the history and culture of classical Greece and Rome and analyze the impact of both cultures.
- Understand the structure of feudal society and its influence.
- Explain the rise of empires in India and China.
- Analyze the cultures of ancient Africa.
- Analyze the spread of Islam.
- Appreciate the colonial legacy of Latin America.
- Analyze the new ideas and values that led to the Renaissance and Reformation.
- Trace the Democratic ideals in Europe and how they impacted the politics of the day.
- Understand the causes and effects of imperialistic thinking of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- Understand the causes and effects of World War I.
- Understand the causes and effects of World War II.
- Trace the rise of communism in Russia and China.
- Recognize how the Cold War affected nations and global politics.

**NORTH BRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Essential Curriculum**  
**Social Studies**

***Grade 10***

**United States History**

Upon completion of grade 10, students will be able to:

- Explore the motives that led to European settlement of the American colonies.
- Understand the different social, intellectual, religious and economic forces behind the development of early America.
- Recognize the variety of issues and perspectives related to the growing tension between the American colonies and Great Britain.
- Understand the issues and debates surrounding the formation of the new government.
- Explore the conflict over the issues of states' rights.
- Appreciate the reasons for the emergencies of the reform movements.
- Understand the challenges Americans faced and they moved west.
- Explore the conflicts between state and federal power and how the failure to compromise on issues led to the Civil War.
- Understand the challenges related to the economic, political and social problems of the country in the aftermath of the Civil War.
- Understand the problems brought on by rapid urbanization and industrialization in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- Explain how reformers attempted to find solutions to improve the life of Americans.
- Understand the growing influence of the United States in foreign affairs.
- Understand the American involvement in World War I.
- Understand the dimension of hardship endured by the Americans during the Great Depression.
- Understand the reforms of the New Deal and their effects on the role of federal government.
- Understand how post-World War II issues led to a conflict between democratic and communist governments.
- Explain the accomplishments of the Civil Rights movement.
- Explain the role of Presidency in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Understand the expanding role of the United States as a world power in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**NORTH BRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Essential Curriculum**  
**Social Studies**

*Grade 11*

**There is no history required in Grade 11. We offer a variety of electives including Economics, Psychology, Sociology, World Wars, and America Since 1945, and History Through Film.**

**NORTH BRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Essential Curriculum**  
**Social Studies**

***Grade 12***

**Contemporary Issues and Civics**

Upon completion of grade 12, students will be able to:

- Identify the various perspectives that exist on the subject of the nature of man.
- Explain and analyze a multitude of philosophers various perspectives on human nature.
- Formulate an educated perspective on human nature.
- Develop an ability to recognize in the works of writers and authors, which school of thought on human nature that the particular individual stresses.
- Recognize the natural link that exists between an individual's outlook on human nature and one's political beliefs.
- Explain how the Founding Fathers perception of human nature influences the drafting of our essential documents.
- Explain why it is still important in a modern world to ponder the essence of human nature.
- Explain why it is still important in a modern world to ponder the essence of human nature.
- Identify what it means to be liberal, conservative, libertarian, populist and moderate.
- Identify, explain and analyze the perspectives of each of the ideological groups along the political spectrum.
- Explain why political parties formed in America, why they still exist and what purpose they serve.
- Analyze the positives and negatives of the two party system.
- Analyze the effects of power on the individual.
- Analyze the historical consequences of power.
- Examine the theory and impact of the power elite.
- Analyze the power and responsibilities of government.
- Explain individual rights, social control, freedom and equality in America society.
- Explain ways in which modern America is struggling to find a balance between freedom order and equality.
- Explain and analyze a multitude of perspectives on moral reasoning.
- Compare and contrast various economic systems.
- Explain the economic cycle and the role of government in the economy.
- Identify and explain various investment options.
- Explain and analyze the variety of contemporary issues related to race, gender, environment, conflict and violence.