



September 2022

## Welcome to Social Studies!

In social studies class students will learn to think critically about their relationship to society. They'll investigate how the past has shaped our world and reflect on the local and global impact of various beliefs and actions. Student's interests will guide their learning – from current events discussions to choosing topics for research projects. Our school's guiding question this year is *Who Am I?* Social studies will guide students in understanding the societal forces that have shaped who they are and help them consider the role they want to have in their community and world.

### Contact Information

If you or your student has a question or concern, I encourage you to get in touch! During the school week, I will respond within 24hrs of receiving your communication. After 5pm on Friday, I will respond to your message by the following Monday. If your student needs help over the weekend that can't wait until Monday, I encourage them to reach out to a classmate.

**Email:** [fabel@sharonacademy.net](mailto:fabel@sharonacademy.net)

**Classroom:** 802-763-2531, extension 302

\*Email is the best way to reach me, since I do not have reception at home. If talking over the phone is preferable, please email and I'll be happy to arrange a time.

### Overview of the Year

Our guiding question for this year is: *Who Am I?* Across all subjects, you will investigate the forces that shape your identity and personal beliefs. The year is divided into three trimesters, each with a specific area of inquiry:

#### 1) Living in Vermont

- a) How has local history and geography shaped my culture?
- b) What commonalities do I have with peers living in other places? What in my experience is uniquely "Vermont"?

#### 2) World Beliefs

- a) What are the central beliefs of various world religions?

b) How do my own beliefs and values compare?

### 3) Immigration and Refugees

- a) What factors led to various groups of people to move to the USA and Vermont?
- b) How do current debates about immigration and refugee issues influence my own views?

## Transferable Skills: TSA's Gateway Standards

Social Studies will offer opportunities to hone many of TSA's Transferable Skills, including:

### 1. Acquire Information Critically

[TSA 1A.](#) Analyze Text

[TSA 1B.](#) Analyze Sources

[TSA 1C.](#) Research

### 2. Think Critically and Reason to Construct Arguments

[TSA 2D.](#) Use Evidence and Supporting Detail in Communication

### 4. Communicate Effectively

[TSA 4A.](#) Organized Communication

[TSA 4D.](#) Mechanics

[TSA 4E.](#) Oral Communication and Presentation

[TSA 4G.](#) Artistic Expression

### 5. Self-Direction: Take Responsibility for Learning and Growth

[TSA 5C.](#) Take initiative and responsibility for learning

[TSA 5D.](#) Persist and Revise

[TSA 5X.](#) Engagement

### 6. Engagement: Commit to Community and Responsible Citizenship

[TSA 6C.](#) Diversity

## Social Studies Content & Skills

The content of our social studies class is aligned with the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) standards, developed by the National Council for Social Studies, as well as the Vermont Department of Education Grade Level Expectations for History & Social Studies (H&SS). Below are the content standards that we will address this year:

- Physical Geography – C3 (D2.Geo.1-12, 6-8)
- Cultural Geography (H&SS 11-13)
- Historical Sources and Evidence – C3 (D2.His.1-11)
- History (H&SS 8-10)

More detailed information about specific content will be provided on assignments, and I am happy to provide that information in advance to any interested families.

## Homework

Students can expect to have Social Studies homework a few nights each week. When I assign homework, my intentions are that the assignment will:

- Be meaningful work that allows for more engaging and productive use of class time
- Require no more than 25 minutes of work per night
- Help students develop time management and organization skills

Homework completion will be tracked and counted toward mastery of the skill *5C: Take Initiative and Responsibility for Learning*. Please try to regularly check on your student's homework completion using Blackbaud. If your student is struggling with their homework, please let me know. I'm happy to work with you to figure out ways to support them or modify work when needed.

**I look forward to a great year together!**