

WEST JEFFERSON HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT SOCIAL STUDIES PHILOSOPHY

GRADE 6

West Jefferson Hills School District's sixth grade social studies curriculum is designed to help students reach four important curriculum goals. The first goal is to provide students with knowledge about the Eastern Hemisphere part of our world. The second is to enable students to better understand the interrelationships of the Eastern Hemisphere's regions and cultures. The third is to provide beneficial instruction and practice in developing basic map skills, critical thinking skills, writing skills, and other general social studies skills. The fourth goal is for every student in sixth grade social studies to follow a planned course of study in history, geography, economics, and government of the Eastern Hemisphere.

The core components of this philosophy are:

1. We as social studies teachers know that classroom life is complicated and ever changing. We also know that there is no single right way to teach and that the state standards were developed with both of those precepts in mind. Through curriculum assessments we can make informed judgments about what needs to be changed and how change can be effectively implemented.
2. We as social studies teachers recognize that we are decision makers. It is in that role that we will use the standards to strengthen what we already teach about geography.
3. We as social studies teachers, by applying the standards, know that students will use their knowledge of special relationships, systematic physical and human processes, and the interaction between people and their environment to make intelligent decisions as adult citizens.
4. We as social studies teachers will learn to use and apply the state standards to grow professionally. This professional enhancement will enable us to organize our curriculum, prepare assessments, present content, and suggest learning opportunities for students.
5. We as social studies teachers want students to recognize what they are able to do with what they have learned. That means asking appropriate geographic questions; finding, organizing, and recording geographic information; presenting that information in a meaningful way; generalizing about issues in geography; and solving problems with special and environmental elements.
6. We as social studies teachers recognize that ever changing technology and teaching strategies will further enhance student learning. To this extent, we are committed to implement and utilize technology in our classrooms.