

McHenry School District #15



Social Science

Year-At-A-Glance Guide

6th-8th Grade

On March 20th, 21st, and 22nd, 2017, McHenry Elementary School District 15 convened all 6th – 8th grade Social Science teachers for the purpose of creating a document that would serve as a curricular and instructional resource for middle school teachers in the area of Social Science. A more specific intention of the created documents was to provide the necessary framework for MESD #15 to begin the creation of a more unified, cohesive and consistent progression of instruction in the area of Social Science.

The following teachers comprised the group that completed the “Year-At-A-Glance” documents that follow:

6th Grade:

Bill Palm

Julia O’Brien

Sarah Anderson

Katie Breitholtz

Mary Jo Lemke

Christina Conklin

Tina Stirsman

Linda Hiatt

Angela Carvell

7th Grade:

Amy Devine

Kristina Shay

Kelly Walsh

Christina Stonehouse

Mackenzie Shutt

Jen Valen

Jeana Behrendt

Jenna Dougherty

Tamara Ray

8th Grade:

Bill Kuechel

Dolly Banwart

Jay Udstuen

Erika MacKey Fischer

Carla Hanrahan

Kim Smith

Geoff Blake

Ted Juske

Katie Breitholtz

A major effort of the above listed educators was the identification of Priority Standards for Social Science in all areas (Civics, Economics, Geography, History). The purpose of this effort was to strategically narrow the scope of our instruction, align our areas of instructional emphasis, and identify the most essential learning objectives for our students that would, ultimately, establish a more unified and consistent focus for teaching and learning in the subject area of Social Science. This “Year-At-A-Glance” is a result of the group’s diligent work. Included in it are:

1. Priority Concepts for Middle School Grade Levels 6-8 aligned to the New Illinois Social Science Standards and C3 (College, Career and Civic Life) Framework.
2. Curriculum Units for Middle School Grade Levels 6-8.
3. Curriculum Units for 6th - 8th grade aligned to the New Illinois Social Science Standards.
4. McHenry School District prioritized standards. Standards highlighted in green are identified as “Priority Standards”. These highlighted standards are viewed as standards that met the criteria of “Leverage,” “Rigor,” “Endurance” and are viewed as essential for teachers to emphasize and students to master.

District 15 views this Year-At-A-Glance Guide as an ever-evolving and ever-improving document that teachers can and should refer to as an instructional and curricular resource. District 15 also views it as an integral initial step in our continual quest to improve and refine our Social Science curriculum.