

Trinity Lutheran School

Social Studies Curriculum



Rationale based on Scripture

At Trinity Lutheran School, the study of history is the study of “His Story,” the Lord’s creation. Students will gain a broad perspective of our world through the study of world, United States, and Wisconsin state history. Other components include instruction in government, civics, economics, and geography.

Instruction and activities in each of these areas are structured to help students develop the following skills: critical thinking, decision making, understanding cause and effect relationships, and comparing fact and opinion. Activities used to foster this development include reading charts, graphs, maps, and daily discussion of current events. The goal of these experiences is to give our students the necessary tools to be active citizens in God’s world.

It is our goal at Trinity to teach social studies in light of God’s Word with the glory not going to man, but rather to the Triune God who has been from the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Social studies is taught with emphasis in the following traditional areas that make up the social studies curriculum:

History is really the telling of “His Story”: learning how our heavenly Father created the world and all in it, how He sustains the world and has preserved it to the present day. In the study of world and American history we learn how we as God’s children fit into the world and the opportunities that exist for spreading the story of God’s love to all people.

Geography shows the wide variety of climates, land forms, and peoples the Lord has created. Here we learn of the factors that affect history and shape the world in which we live. Geography helps us understand our place in the vast number of different cultures that exist and reminds us of our calling to preach the Gospel to all nations.

Civics is taught to prepare our children for their future role as Christian leaders in the world. As Christians we understand that government is a gift that the Lord has established through the Fourth Commandment. Our children need to be trained as responsible citizens who can take active leadership and participator roles, and in doing so serve their Lord and their country.

Current Events lead us to a better understanding of the world and its events as they take place around us. Not only do we need to know how these events will affect us now and in the future, but also how the events came about and the relationship of these events to the factors of history, geography, and civics.

Economics is taught to foster the practice of good stewardship. By learning to make reasoned judgments about personal economic questions, students develop understanding of how resources are used to serve God and family. As students study larger economic questions that involve community, country, and world, they develop an understanding of basic economic principles.

Exit goals for graduation

Students will demonstrate proficiency, understanding, and/or commitment to the following set of exit goals upon graduation. The level of proficiency of these exit goals will be dependent upon the individual gifts and effort of the student and at what grade the student started attending Trinity.

Through Christ-centered social studies instruction, teachers strive to lead each child to:

1. Grow to be a productive citizen with a positive influence in the community--the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-16)
2. Respect our government and be thankful for our country's blessings
3. Identify a "world-view," that he or she may better understand God's guiding hand in the world, and better function in the home, community, and the nation
4. Analyze the blessings showered on the world by the overwhelming grace of God and therefore be filled with a greater desire to thank and praise, serve and obey our God
5. Evaluate other cultures in our society and throughout the world by the standards of God's Word
6. Realize the need to spread the Gospel to the whole world
7. Know the address, city, state, country, and continent on which they live
8. Know the seven continents and four oceans and be familiar with the geography of the world
9. Know, understand, and apply the history of the United States of America
10. Know, understand, and apply general world history
11. Have an understanding of the United States government and their role in it
12. As a child of God students will see God's role in history as he preserves and prospers his creation

Grade level measurable objectives

At the end of each school year, students will demonstrate proficiency, understanding, and/or commitment to the following set of grade specific measurable objectives in these classifications: knowledge, skills, and attitudes.

PreK and Kindergarten

By the end of Kindergarten the students will know and understand:

1. Good citizenship in the classroom and in the community
2. Community helpers and the roles they play in a community
3. The purpose of celebrating various national holidays such as:
 - a. Columbus Day
 - b. Veterans Day
 - c. Thanksgiving Day
 - d. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
 - e. Presidents' Day
 - f. Memorial Day
4. Important American symbols
5. That a map is a drawing of a place
6. The street address, city, state, country, and continent on which they live

First and Second Grade

By the end of second grade the students will know and understand:

1. The street address, city, state, country, and continent on which they live
2. A basic understanding of Civics (levels of government and organization of people)
3. The history and traditions of China and their culture
4. The current traditions of Japan
5. The history of Greece and the Olympics
6. The culture of Ancient Mesopotamia and how people used to live before homes, buildings, etc.

7. Ancient Egypt, the building of the pyramids, and understand how pharaohs existed and ruled people
8. The culture and traditions of the country of Mexico and compare it to American culture
9. The beginning of civilizations in Central America and the fall of Central America
10. The geography and topography of North and South America
11. How the Constitution of the United States began and was formed
12. The discovery of America and its struggle for independence from England
13. Explore the War of 1812
14. The strategies and progression of transportation of America moving West and establishing homes and lives in the Western half of the United States
15. The discovery of new places and traditions in the Western United States
16. How the Civil War began, ended, and why Americans had a Civil War
17. Heritage through immigration and citizenship into the United States
18. An introduction to the Civil Rights Movement

Third and Fourth Grade

By the end of fourth grade the students will know and understand:

1. The causes of the Revolutionary War
2. The Vikings, the Romans and Europe in the Middle Ages
3. How the Roman civilization developed, grew, and ended
4. How the feudal system led to the rule of kings during the Middle Ages with the focus on English history
5. The lives of the Vikings and how their travels led to their discovery of North America
6. The European explorers and of their importance in the discovery and settling of North America
7. The history and development of the 13 colonies of the United States
8. An overview of Native Americans in the United States
9. Where Native Americans lived directly influenced how they lived, with an emphasis on the Native Americans living in the Wisconsin area
10. The history of Wisconsin from the Native Americans to the Europeans who came and settled this state, the agriculture and industries that make up Wisconsin's economy
11. The basic parts of the Wisconsin government: governor, state senate, and assembly
12. Maps of the United States, the continents of the world, and the state of Wisconsin
13. The 7 continents and 4 oceans and identify them on a map of the world

Fifth and Sixth Grade

By the end of sixth grade the students will know and understand:

1. Geography: World Lakes/World Deserts/United States
2. The Maya, Aztec, and Inca Civilizations
3. The Renaissance
4. The Reformation
5. The Age of Exploration
6. Early Russia
7. Feudal Japan
8. Native Americans
9. Ancient Greece and Rome
10. The Enlightenment
11. The French Revolution and Romanticism
12. Independence for Latin America
13. Immigration

14. Industrialization and Urbanization in America
15. Reform in Industrial America

Seventh and Eight Grade

By the end of eight grade the students will know and understand:

1. American History before Colonization
2. American Colonization
3. The peoples native to North and South America
4. The American Revolution
5. The United States' Constitution, Amendments, and Bill of Rights
6. Manifest Destiny in the United States
7. The Industrial Revolution
8. The Causes and Effects of the American Civil War
9. Industrialization of the United States
10. World War I and its aftermath
11. The causes and effects of the Great Depression
12. World War II and its aftermath
13. The Cold War
14. The World Today Present Times (Current Events)
15. The Major Geography of the United States

Assessment of the academic growth and achievement of each student

Each individual teacher assesses the academic growth of their students on a regular basis via class discussion, note taking, worksheets, class activities, research papers, projects, quizzes, and tests.

Evidence of fundamental principles of student growth

Through class discussions, activities, and projects, students will build on their previous knowledge as they learn new concepts from grade-to-grade. As students grow, they gain a deeper understanding of important events from the history of the United States and the world.