

McCall Social Studies Classes

Grade 6

World History and Geography: The Ancient World Prehistory to 500 AD

This course begins with an examination of the anthropological evidence of human origins and it ends with the fall of the Roman Empire. Following the introductory anthropological unit, the historical scope of the sixth grade curriculum will have students studying the early civilizations of the Fertile Crescent, Israel, Egypt, India, China, Greece and Rome. During the study of all these ancient civilizations there will be integration of the arts, architecture, literature and thought of the period into the history of these classical civilizations. This course will introduce students to the major world religions originating during this time — Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Christianity.

Grade 7

World Geography & Cultures

The seventh grade curriculum is a course in World Geography. Students do extensive work with various types of maps in order to learn the locations of places in all regions of the world, excluding the United States and Canada. This map work lays the foundation for a more in-depth exploration of these various places, including their cultural characteristics and the contemporary issues they may be facing. In addition to building an understanding of the physical geography of the world, students explore how the people, cultures and ideas of the regions they study. This immersive approach allows students to understand the unique relationship between geography and human development. Materials used during this course include atlases, desk maps, current and historical documents, web-based materials and guest speakers.

Grade 8

United States History and Government - The Foundation of the Republic

This course merges a study of early United States history with a fundamental understanding of the functions of government and the rights and responsibilities of active citizens. The study of Native American tribes and subsequent conflicts between these tribes and incoming Europeans from the beginning of this course. Students will also explore the country's colonial period and how ideas of liberty and self-government fueled the American Revolution. During the examination of the country's founding, students will analyze important early American documents including the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Students will then transition into a civics-based curriculum that will include looking at the functions of local, state and national government institutions and how the students themselves can become active participants in their own community by partnering with governmental and non-governmental organizations. During the second half of the course, all students will participate in a non-partisan civic action project where they will work with their teacher and

classmates to identify issues important to them and their community and develop a project that allows them to understand their agency to affect change and to engage with community partners to address the issues that they have identified.

Grade Nine Honors is offered to students who have demonstrated the ability, motivation, or potential to work at an advanced level. A teacher recommendation that accounts for a student's interest in the subject matter, previous achievement, and a willingness to engage in rigorous coursework is required for admittance into this course.