

Social Studies offers a wealth of **elective courses** for your child to take to enhance his/her knowledge of the world:

- **Criminal Justice**-Students study the criminal justice system by looking at the foundations of the criminal justice system, the courts, law enforcement and corrections. Units on forensics, issues facing youth in the criminal justice system and criminal justice in the age of terrorism are among the topical issues explored.
- **Comparative Religion**-Students will study the beliefs of the world's five major religious groups: Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam. They will analyze similarities and differences among the beliefs and practices of these world religions. Students will be required to read primary source material, including religious texts, in this course. This course is recommended for students interested in exploring global studies in detail.
- **Maryland History**- Students will examine political, economic and social events of Maryland from the colonial period to the present. This course is recommended for students interested in exploring American studies in detail.
- **AP US History**-Among the first AP courses offered in the United States, AP US History engages students in the history of our country using primary sources to provide an in-depth study of the forces which shaped us
- **AP World History**- AP World History is meant to further a students' understanding of the unfolding of World History from 8000BCE to the present. The course highlights the nature of changes in international frameworks and their causes and consequences, as well as comparisons among major societies. This is a college level course designed to earn college credit for those students scoring an acceptable level on the College Board examination
- **Women's History**- Students will examine the changing roles of women in United States history. They will analyze the social, marital, economic, and legal-political status of women in different eras in U.S. history. Students will also investigate the causes and consequences of issues that affect women in contemporary American society (e.g. violence, poverty, education, equal opportunity). In this course, students will be expected to be able to read and analyze primary source documents, including works of art, literature and music. This course is recommended for students interested in exploring American studies in detail
- **African American History**-Through the investigation of local and national historic events, students will examine the achievements of African Americans in their struggle for political, economic, and social equality throughout American History. Students will also examine the achievements of African Americans in their struggle for political, economic, and social equality. Students will also investigate the causes of issues that continue to face African Americans in society today. Throughout the course students will read and analyze primary sources. This course is recommended for students interested in exploring American studies in detail.

- **Sociology**- In this course, students investigate the field of Sociology: the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Students will use a social science research model to investigate contemporary American issues of social inequality, patterns of behavior, forces for social change and resistance, and how social systems work.
- **Psychology**/ -Students will learn the research methods in psychology used to understand human behavior and development. They will learn about the physical systems of the body and how they affect emotions and behaviors as well as learning theories and social interaction.
- **Psych and the Individual** -Students will study people and their interactions with others. They will discuss self-concept, develop an understanding of how people function as individuals and as members of groups, and understand the impact of social institutions.
- **AP Modern European History** The goals of AP European History are to gain knowledge of basic chronology and of major events and trends from approximately 1450 to the present and an understanding of some of the principal themes in European history, including an ability to analyze historical evidence, and an ability to analyze and express historical understanding in writing. This is a college level course designed to earn college credit for those students scoring an acceptable level on the College Board examination.
- **AP Human Geography** AP Human Geography is the study of the patterns and processes of human interaction. Students learn about the world around them with regard to population demographics, migration, land use patterns, and the development of cities, political interactions and globalization. Students will also examine socioeconomic organization as well as key factors that make up cultures, such as language, religion and ethnicity.
- **AP Economics (macro/micro)** AP Economics covers both the principles that apply to an economic system as a whole as well as those principles that apply to the functions of individual decision-makers within the economic system. Macroeconomic concepts include fiscal and monetary policies, unemployment, inflation, and financial and foreign exchange markets. Microeconomic concepts include consumer choice, product markets, factor markets, and a firm's behavior in various market structures.
- **AP Psychology**- Students will study the behavior and mental processes of human beings. This includes the facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields in psychology. Students are expected to analyze issues in class and to be able to express their thoughts in a logical manner, both orally and in writing. This course will prepare students for the Advanced Placement exam in Psychology and the opportunity to earn college credits.
- **AP Government and Politics**- This course provides students with an analytical perspective on government and politics the United States. This course will prepare students for the Advanced Placement exam in U.S. Government and Politics. Students may take this course to meet the graduation requirement in

U.S. Government and the opportunity to earn college credits. This course is recommended for students interested in exploring government, law, and leadership and American studies in detail.

- **AP Comparative Government-** Students will examine the models used to interpret political relationships and institutions found in national politics around the world in order to apply them to specific countries and their governments. This course will prepare students for the AP examination in Comparative Government and Politics and the opportunity to earn college credits. This course is recommended for students Interested in exploring government, law, and leadership and American studies in detail.