

**SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM SUMMARY**

The purpose of the Social Studies Curriculum Summary is to present an overview of the African & Asian Studies curriculum. Parents are the intended audience of the Social Studies Curriculum Summary.

**Introduction**

Students defining and discussing the elements of culture” and all of the vocabulary necessary to examine the way people live in Africa and Asia. Major achievements of civilizations throughout world history will be included.

**The Continent of Africa**

After learning the physical and political features of the African continent students view its history from the ancient kingdoms through slave trade, colonialism to independence. Students begin a major research project that will focus on one African nation in depth – from its culture and history to current issues.

**The Middle East**

After learning the geographic features and climate regions of the Middle East, students study Mesopotamian and ancient Egyptian civilization. Students examine the development of the three main religions of the Middle East—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam Finally a look at continuity and change among cultures, peoples, and nations of the Middle East will culminate the unit.

**South Asia**

After learning the geography and political nature of South Asia, students analyze its diverse cultures. Students examine the religion of Hinduism and the caste system and how this unique culture absorbed and adapted to being ruled by Muslims and then the British before winning independence. Students consider issues India and Pakistan face with each other and the forces of modernization and westernization in a changing world.

**China**

After learning the physical and political landscape of East Asia students learn about China’s long history and vast scientific and cultural achievements, including Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism. Students chronicle China’s long history from imperial rule to communist takeover in 1949. Students consider China’s emerging status as a world power and the issues it faces internally and globally amidst tremendous economic and social change.

**Japan and Korea**

After learning the physical and political landscape of Japan, students explore Japanese culture, including Shintoism and Buddhism. Students examine Japanese feudalism and its period of isolation, then its economic modernization and subsequent rise to power in Asia in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Students study challenges of modern Japan. Students learn about the Korean split, war, and subsequent uneasy peace.

**Current Events**

Current events will be discussed throughout the year, particularly as they relate to the regions studied.