

Social Studies Curriculum Updates

Rozy Scott – Social Studies/ Teaching American History Project Manager

Rozy.scott@polk-fl.net 647-4809

Middle School

The revised middle school social studies curriculum maps are now published on the district website if they are of help to your teachers.

- Sixth grade has very few changes as this is the last year we will be teaching geography. Look for big changes in 2012-2013 when we switch to the state-mandated world history course.
- Seventh grade was revised to reflect teacher requests to teach civics in the fall when there would be fewer interruptions because of FCAT and end-of-year activities. We are using M/J Civics 2106010 as the course code this year. This is a yearlong course that includes the geography and economics standards as well as the civics standards.
- The state will field test the Civics EOC in 2013. 2014 is the base line administration, and the test will count fully in 2015. At that time students will be required to pass the test to leave middle school. The EOC will cover only the civics standards, but there will still be economics and geography standards in the course description.
- Eighth grade no longer contains the civics units but rather is a full year of American History. (M/J US History and Career Planning 2100015) There is also a 3 week map for a career unit to meet the career requirement.

High School

- The high school American History EOC will be field tested this year. We do not yet know if any Polk schools have been selected. Baseline testing will take place in 2013, and the test will be fully implemented in 2014. The U.S. History Test Item Specifications were released in June and should help you in planning your curriculum.
- Other high school required courses are essentially the same. Please check the DOE website for current course descriptions.

Textbook Adoption

2011-2012 is the social studies adoption year. State procedures have changed, but we should have approved selections from which we can choose in the spring. Priorities are 6th and 7th grade because those are totally new courses.

History Fair

History Fair 2012 will be February 24. There will be a teacher training workshop on September 20, 5-8 PM, in the Palm Room at Jim Miles. Because of the large number of students and the number of judges that necessitates, each participating charter school will be expected to provide at least a couple of judges this year, and possibly more in the schools with large numbers of entries.

Mandates

Remember all students must have a lesson on the Constitution on September 16 (the day closest to Constitution Day) per federal law. In addition, the state legislature requires 3 hours of instruction on the Declaration of Independence and our rights the last full week in September.