

Why Study History and Social Sciences?

*A mission statement for history & social sciences
in the
Newton Public Schools*

We believe that the study of United States and world history and the social sciences is critical to the life of every Newton student.

We believe that students should study history and social sciences in order to:

- appreciate the historical and cultural influences that shape their individual identities, our national identity, and the cultures and countries that share our planet.
- understand and reason about successes, failures, triumphs and tragedies in human history, particularly as they are reflected in the ideas and actions of the people we study.
- prepare for adult lives of informed and active citizenship and civic engagement.
- learn to assess and interpret evidence, to understand change over time, to think logically and express themselves clearly.

In order to offer all students a meaningful history and social sciences program, we provide students with rich course content and varied teaching and assessment techniques. We believe that all children can learn history and social sciences and we have high expectations for all students. We have equally high expectations for teachers of history and social sciences and provide professional development to help our entire faculty to meet high standards. As part of its mission, the history and social sciences program supports and promotes the Newton Public Schools' system-wide core value of respect for human differences.

We believe our students' success in history and social sciences is important to their futures and the larger society.