

The Elementary Program

The history program in primary grades (K-2) provides students with experiences that allow them to learn about themselves and their families, the contributions of important people, and people who live in other countries. Basic concepts of the program include the following: the similarities and differences between and among people; the ways in which people make a difference in the lives of others; and the richness of cultural traditions. In the intermediate grades (3-5), students learn about the United States. They study United States history from the Native American experience through the American Revolution and the writing of the Constitution; the third grade emphasis is on early Massachusetts history while the fifth grade study is a broad look at early history across the colonies. In grade 4, students begin their formalized study of North American geography, with a particular emphasis on the regional geography of the United States. Instructional units have been developed by teachers and the curriculum coordinator at all grade levels. These units provide the guidelines for instruction; classroom materials have been purchased for buildings that support instruction.

The Middle School Program

Grade six is devoted to the study of contemporary world geography. Students not only learn the location of countries and geographic features around the world, they also grapple with substantive issues that people face in a variety of places around the world today. The issues include use/abuse of the environment, population trends, infant mortality and healthcare. The program relies upon databases and other forms of current information, rather than textbooks. In grade seven, students study ancient societies from anthropological, sociological and political perspectives. Students focus on the ancient societies of Mesopotamia, Egypt and Nubia, Israel, Greece and Rome as well as learn about archaeology and the ways we find out about the past. In grade eight, students study United States history, from the American Revolution through Reconstruction. Emphasis is placed on the study of the United States government: its creation, its operation, and the continuing attempts to meet the ideals of the founding documents. In addition, students learn about the growth of the new nation, the changing west, the Civil War and Reconstruction.

The High School Program

The high school curriculum begins with a two-year world history sequence. In ninth grade, **World History 300 C.E. to 1775** is a survey of world history in which students study history from the golden ages of empires in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas to the dawning of the Industrial Age. The course utilizes both textbooks and primary and secondary sources. Students also conduct research and work on geography and essay writing skills. In tenth grade, **World History 1775 to Present** covers the period of time from the American and French Revolutions to the present. Students look at the development of Constitutional government in the United States and France, the Industrial Revolution in Europe, North America, and Japan; the spread of nationalism in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas; imperialism and its consequences; revolutions; global wars; and a changing and more interdependent world economy. America will be dealt with from a global perspective with particular emphasis placed on a comparative study of the American and French revolutionary periods. The course utilizes both textbooks and primary and secondary sources. Students also conduct research and work on geography and essay writing skills.

In eleventh grade, **United States History** focuses on the development of American institutions and culture throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; the first quarter is a review of American history prior to the Civil War. Particular attention is given to the changing role of the federal government, the United States' position in the world, and the evolution of and relationships among diverse groups in American society.

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A variety of elective courses in history and the social sciences is offered in the twelfth grade. Course offerings vary from year-to-year, depending on budget and enrollment. Typical offerings at Newton North include: Advanced Placement European History, Comparative Government, Psychology; African History, Asian History, Economics, Law, and Contemporary Political and Social Issues. Typical offerings at Newton South include: Advanced Placement European History, American Government, and Psychology; Race, Class, and Gender; Art History; and the Environment.