

Noblesville Schools
K – 12 Social Studies Program

Noblesville Schools Mission

Noblesville Schools creates a learner-centered culture that seamlessly fosters future-ready skills through authentic, interdisciplinary experiences supported by strong relationships among students, staff, parents, and the community.

Social Studies Philosophy

The aim for social studies education in Noblesville Schools is for learners to be involved in meaningful experiences that they will retain and apply throughout life to be a contributing member of society. Learners will acquire the necessary knowledge, skills, and mindset to make informed decisions in a global environment while understanding others' perspectives.

Social Studies Mission-Related Program Goals

Learners will be involved in **inquiry**.

- Learners and teachers will use essential questions to guide learning.
- Learners will transfer big ideas in history, civics, economics, geography and other social sciences to our current reality as well as how these events will affect the future.
- Learners' thinking process will be facilitated by the teacher by modeling thinking and giving time for learners to apply and practice the knowledge they have acquired.

Learners will intentionally use the **4Cs of 21st Century Learning** to guide their inquiry work.

- Communication
 - Learners will be able to form, articulate, and defend an opinion while respecting other viewpoints.
- Collaboration
 - Learners will engage with the community, and develop and implement meaningful contributions.
 - Learners will collaborate to accomplish a common task.
 - Learners will engage in purposeful conversations and debates.
- Critical Thinking
 - Learners will be able to synthesize information to use historical context for present-day application.
 - Learners will analyze the validity of sources and consider the perspective of the author of each source.
 - Learners will ask questions at high levels to better understand ideology and historical perspective.
 - Learners will consider multiple causes and outcomes, not a simple cause-effect thinking.
 - Learners will think through the lens of the social studies disciplines (historian, geographer, economist, political scientist, sociologist, or psychologist) when considering and answering questions.
- Creativity
 - Learners will be engaged or involved in authentic demonstrations of their learning.

Learners will use **technology** as a tool to connect the past, present, and future.

K-12 Social Studies Program Beliefs

- The use of inquiry allows students to develop necessary habits to be successful in a constantly changing world.
- All students learn through a variety of experiences.
- Active learning is essential for developing understanding.
- The work we do is interdisciplinary and connected across the curriculum.
- Multiple perspectives are studied to best understand situations and make informed decisions as a citizen.
- Learning is about making hypotheses and problem solving, not just finding the right answer.
- Our voices as learners and members of society matter.
- Multiple interpretations of complex events develop deeper understanding.