

A government of laws and not of men.

John Adams

History, by apprising men of the past, will enable
them to judge the future

Thomas Jefferson

St. Sebastian School **Social Studies Education Philosophy**

Social Studies is an interdisciplinary subject. The content and knowledge of social studies are essential but more importantly, act as a vehicle to examine the student's role in the world in the following areas:

- I. Culture
- II. Time, Continuity and Change
- III. People, Places and Environments
- IV. Individual Development and Identity
- V. Individuals, Groups and Institutions
- VI. Power, Authority and Governance
- VII. Production, Distribution and Consumption
- VIII. Science, Technology and Society
- IX. Global Connections
- X. Civic Ideals and Practices

Two features of these curriculum strands are especially important. First, they are all interrelated. To understand culture, for example, students need to understand time, continuity, and change; the relationship among people, places and environments; and civic ideals and practices. To understand power, authority and governance, students need to understand the relationships among cultures; people, places and environments; and individuals, groups, and institutions.

Second, the thematic strands draw from all of the social science disciplines and other related disciplines and fields of scholarly study to build a framework for social studies curriculum design. The ten themes thus present a holistic framework for state and local curriculum standards. To further enhance the curriculum design, social studies educators are encouraged to seek detailed content from standards developed for history, geography, civics, economics and other fields.

Our Social Studies Curriculum is divided into areas:

- *History*
- *Geography*
- *Economics*
- *Behavioral Science*
- *Political Science / Citizenship*
- *Peace & Justice*

Social Studies Education Goals

- * Students will know the history and culture of the people of the world, United States, Wisconsin and their community.
- * Students will be aware of their civic responsibility and requirement for participation.
- * Students will learn geography - local, national and worldwide.
- * Students will learn about democracy and political institutions, traditions, ideas and values.
- * Students will learn about American and other economic systems along with their relationships to one another.
- * Students will use a variety of techniques including critical thinking, oral and written presentations, research involving print and non-print data to reflect development of students' literacy for social studies.