

Humanities

Overview

This year we are introducing into all of our core content classes the National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies created by the National Council for the Social Studies. We know that the inclusion of Social Studies into all of our content areas is critical to helping our students become competent civic participants by building the knowledge, intellectual processes, and democratic dispositions that are required to be active and engaged in public life.

The Standards

The National Council for the Social Studies organizes its standards around ten major themes for grades K-12 and then breaks the standards down into developmentally appropriate knowledge, processes, and products for the early grades, middle grades, and high school. The ten themes that organize our social studies strands are:

- Culture
- Time, Continuity, and Change
- People, Places, and Environments
- Individual Development and Identity
- Individuals, Groups, and Institutions
- Power, Authority, and Governance
- Production, Distribution, and Consumption
- Science, Technology, and Society
- Global Connections
- Civic Ideals and Practices

Application at Lab

Each trimester, 3-4 themes will be chosen as the focus for each grade level. Each content area teacher will determine how / if those themes can be incorporated into their planned units or Quests. By the end of the year, all ten themes will have been covered in each grade level through at least one, if not more, content area class. With each trimester progress report, families will get grade-level specific information on how Humanities and the ten Social Studies themes were integrated into each student's learning.

Humanities Personalized Learning Approach

Students will work in differentiated groups based on their individual needs. Instruction will be a combination of: whole class instruction, small group instruction, partner work and independent work. Differentiated groups will be determined through ongoing formal and informal assessments and address students' specific growth areas.

Student Work

Charlotte Lab School uses an online portfolio system called SeeSaw which enables students to independently showcase what they are learning in each one of their content areas; Humanities / Social Studies work will be shared through this platform.

Homework and Home-School Connection

Homework will be assigned as needed to complete in-class tasks and for extra practice. We also encourage parents to review and engagement with SeeSaw at home with their children; this allows parents to connect with what your child is learning.

Parent-Teacher Communication

The best way to communicate general questions is through your student's advisor. If a specific Humanities or Social Studies question arises, please directly email your advisor and they can help direct you toward the correct content area teacher. An answer will be provided within 48 hours.