

It is the belief of the district and the Social Studies Department that students are active participants in the learning process and that they are to be held accountable for their own learning. Students are encouraged to develop and practice meta-cognitive skills that allow them to effectively advocate for themselves. In order to assure students have the best educational experiences in the classroom, teachers are strongly encouraged and supported in furthering their understanding of educational practices by joining professional organizations, attending post-graduate classes, participating in district sponsored professional development opportunities, and engaging in discourse and collaboration on instructional strategies and content meaning. Classroom methodologies should reflect current best practices research with the primary goal of inspiring students to critically reflect upon the society in which they live. In addition, instructional strategies should be purposeful and empowering to students. Cooperative learning strategies, interdisciplinary approaches, decision making models, issues centered models and civic participation should be employed to allow students reach their full potential.