Social Studies 8 – Fireside School Mr. Adams

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Social Studies 8 examines issues related to the contact between societies with differing worldviews, including particular times in history when societies have chosen to either ‘adapt’ or ‘isolate’ themselves. We will explore elements of worldviews and how these worldviews are expressed by people living in different times and in different places. Students have the opportunity to reflect on their own worldviews and assess the influence the past has on the present. They will learn how intercultural contact between societies leads to significant change and alters each society’s worldview.

**Program Rationale**

Social studies provides opportunities for students to develop the attitudes, skills and knowledge that will enable them to become engaged, active, informed and responsible citizens - believing that recognition and respect for individual and collective identity is essential in a pluralistic and democratic society. Social studies facilitates and encourages the development of sense of self and community.

**Introduction: Introduction to Worldview**

**Topic One** : **Renaissance Europe: Origins of Western Worldview**

*Overview:* Through an examination of Renaissance Europe, students will demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of how the exchange of ideas and knowledge contributed to shaping the worldview of the Western world.

**Topic Two** : **Japan: From Isolation to Adaptation**

*Overview:* Through an examination of Japan, students will demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which beliefs, values and knowledge shape worldviews and contribute to a society’s isolation or adaptation.

**Topic Three**: **World view in Conflict: The Spanish and the Aztecs**

*Overview:* Through an examination of Spanish and Aztec societies, students will demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of how intercultural contact affects the worldviews of societies.

**Local and Current Events**

Students will also engage in current affairs, issues and concerns of a local nature. The above three topics will be linked and connected with the issues of today, and interdisciplinary studies will emerge between social studies and science, language arts and health. Through these interdisciplinary studies, students will learn and develop communication skills including: how to properly articulate of ideas, persuade other, and listening to multiple perspectives with understanding.

**Evaluation**

**Assignments** (in-class and take-home assignments, performance assessments, essays etc.) **70%**

Note: groupwork will be included as part of student’s summative evaluation, however, group-grades will never exceed 10% of the assignment grading.

**Exams** (quizzes and ‘unit finals’) **30%**