

Social Studies Curriculum Union 61/Tantasqua Schools

Preface

Well-informed citizens of a democracy possess the skills to understand and analyze current and historical events that shape and change their world. This curriculum will guide the students of the Tantasqua and Union 61 schools, Pre-K through grade 12, to fully participate as citizens of the United States of America in a rapidly changing world.

A committee of teachers and administrators from our seven schools collaborated in the design of this History and Social Science Curriculum Guide. The Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for History and Social Science of August, 2003, served as the basis for the majority of the content. The district committee refined the framework in the areas of standards, concepts and skills for each grade. All classroom teachers were provided opportunities to refine this document. Their input was extremely valuable.

Tantasqua/Union 61 schools, along with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Education, respect the expertise of classroom teachers in the development of units and lessons. This curriculum guide provides flexibility for the classroom teacher to adapt lessons to fit classroom and student needs as well as individual teaching styles.

Our document was written for teachers at all levels of experience. Its objective is to promote continuity among the five elementary schools that will support high levels of achievement for students at the secondary level. The guide therefore contains student learning outcomes, suggested teaching strategies and learning activities, suggested assessments, and guides to materials and resources. The structure allows for changes as new information becomes available.

We hope that this curriculum guides our teachers as they continue to inspire students to become fully engaged citizens of their communities and their world.

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