

Social Studies Curricular and Programmatic Update:

Keeping student learning outcomes at the forefront, a committee of classroom and specialist teachers along with administration participated in a thorough review of the Social Studies curriculum during the 2015-2016 school year. The review process was a four phase plan which included: evaluation, curriculum renewal and design, implementation, and continuous improvement. The committee further completed a thorough analysis of student learning data for both Social Studies and Reading to determine areas of success and needed growth. This school year is the second year of the updated Social Studies curriculum.

Benchmarks and Standards:

Along with the information from the evaluation phase, within the review process several scholarly and well-recognized benchmarks for Social Studies programming were used to review and revise the curriculum. These included the [C3 Framework for Social Studies Standards](#), [the 10 Themes of Social Studies](#), [ACT's College and Career Readiness Standards](#), and the [National Standards for Financial Literacy](#). More information regarding these benchmarks can be found by following the associated links.

Curricular Alignment:

As part of the review process, the committee completed a full alignment of the curriculum kindergarten through 8th grade. The alignment focused on creating a scope and sequence in the four core areas of Social Studies: geography, civics, history, and economics. The entire social studies curriculum can be accessed on the Swallow School District website. In addition to the curricular alignment, the following focus areas are key components of the revised curriculum.

- Increase student writing opportunities aligned to RLA
- Increase study of economics and financial literacy
- Increase non-fiction reading
- Utilize primary sources and DBQ's (Document based questions)
- Create connections to career clusters and academic and career plans