

# *New Bedford Public Schools*



## *Middle School Social Studies*

*Our middle school Social Studies curriculum is designed to meet the requirements outlined in the **Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for History and Social Sciences** and to prepare our students to be engaged citizens in a global society.*

### **GRADE 6: WORLD GEOGRAPHY**

Sixth graders study the world outside of the United States and North America and systematically learn geography around the world continent by continent, similar to the way in which atlases are organized. The students address standards that embed five major concepts: *location, place, human interaction with the environment, movement, and regions.*

### **GRADE 7: ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS**

The curriculum for grade 7 is designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the major events, people, and movements that have shaped ancient history commencing with the year 3000 B.C. and culminating with the significant events and people associated with the decline of the Roman Empire in 550 A.D. Incorporated with the study of ancient history will be a study of world geography as it affected the development of ancient civilizations. This instruction will be accomplished with the utilization of critical thinking skills, research with primary source documents, and the use of project-based learning.

## **GRADE 8: INTRODUCTION TO UNITED STATES HISTORY**

The objective of the curriculum for grade 8 is to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the major events, people, and movements that have shaped American history beginning with the Age of Exploration and continuing with a study of the seventeenth century colonial settlements, the American Revolution and the Constitutional Era. Emphasis in the course will be placed on the development of the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills critical thinking skills, research with primary source documents, and the utilization of project-based learning. Relevant United States geography will be correlated with the historical events that have encompassed the period from the Age of Exploration through the Constitutional Era. This course will provide the students with the necessary foundation to be successful with the study of United States History at the high school level.