

# Brooke 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Social Studies Standards (2011-2012)

Each year of the social studies curriculum covers a specific topic.

3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>
How People Respond to Geography to Meet their Needs	What People Believe: Religion	How Money Impacts People	How People Organize: Comparative Government	Slavery	Proposed: How America Interacts with World

## Notes:

Our social studies standards reflect several goals:

- Stickiness: We want our social studies teaching to be powerful enough to stick. We think that connecting social studies to a large concept will help it stick with students because it will fit into a large conceptual framework. Twenty years from now, we want our students to remember the content of each power standards from their 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade schooling and to know why that information matters to human existence and how it connects to other ideas.
- Transfer: We want our social studies teaching to develop analytic skills that students can transfer to new contexts. For instance, once scholars learn that land equals money in the American context, they could transfer that thinking to a new situation of the English colonization of India and consider whether England wanted this territory to acquire its natural resources.
- Competence with primary sources: We want our social studies teaching to build our students' proficiency in analyzing and learning from primary sources. In elementary grades, this will involve mostly examining primary sources that are unwritten, but as they move through the grades, students will increasingly have to analyze and consider primary texts, thereby developing the close reading skills that advanced nonfiction texts require.

Social studies is not formally taught in the primary grades and therefore there are no formal primary social studies standards. In all primary grades, students should focus on community behavior through character education. Second graders should engage in a preliminary study of world history by engaging in reading about other countries.

Standards for 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies are not finalized and will be determined during the course of the 2011-2012 academic year.