

SOCIAL STUDIES

Essential Discipline Goals

- Explore the human condition.
- Create a global view based upon the interactions between different areas of knowledge.
- Demonstrate verbally and in writing, an understanding of what is and is not knowledge.
- Create an argument and support it with appropriate evidence.
- Demonstrate a comprehension of the nature of knowledge.
- Demonstrate commitment of human dignity, justice, and the democratic process.
- Work cooperatively and accept group decisions while respecting individual rights.

PHILOSOPHY OF KNOWLEDGE

Elective — Grades 11 and 12

SS.POK.05 What is knowledge

This unit begins the course and therefore serves as a platform for the course focus question which is; What is a human being? In this unit the student will explore what is and what is not knowledge. To accomplish this task students will use the unit focus question: What is the difference between belief, true belief, and knowledge?

- SS. POK.05.01 Knowledge How vs. Knowledge That
 - SS.POK.05.01.a Students will differentiate between knowledge that allows one to accomplish tasks and knowledge that is factual.
 - SS.POK.05.01.b Students will investigate different types of knowledge.
- SS. POK.05.02 Analysis of Knowledge
 - SS.POK.05.02.a Students will compare and contrast what is/is not knowledge.
 - SS.POK.05.02.b Students will recognize that knowledge is acquired through Perception, Language, Emotion, and Reason
 - SS.POK.05.02.c Students will identify how something is KNOWN.
- SS. POK.05.03 Theories of Truth – Can you know if something is or is not true?
- SS. POK.05.04 The “Eastern” concept of knowledge – How does the Eastern concept of knowledge differ from the Western one?
- SS. POK.05.05 Assess the responsibilities of the knower
 - SS.POK.05.05.a Can you know something that is not true?
 - SS.POK.05.05.b The knowers in the class must assess their own responsibility for acquiring knowledge- (why do YOU want to know?)

SS.POK.10 Foundations of Knowledge

This unit explores the building blocks of knowledge and has as its focus question: How does the brain process raw data?

- SS. POK.10.01 Students will define Perception as a way of knowing.
 - SS.POK.10.01.a Can we trust our experiences and perceptions?
 - SS.POK.10.01.b How do we navigate our world based upon these perceptions?
- SS. POK.10.02 Students will define Memory as a way of knowing.
 - SS.POK.10.02.a How reliable is memory?
 - SS.POK.10.02.b Inquire as to how memory affects our identity.
 - SS.POK.10.02.c How does the biochemical nature of memory affect the way we remember and recall events?
- SS. POK.10.03 Students will define Language as a way of knowing.
 - SS.POK.10.03.a What are the problems associated with language as the primary means of communication between humans?
 - SS.POK.10.03.b How do the words we use affect the way we think?

- SS. POK.10.04 Students will define Emotion as a way of knowing.
 - SS.POK.10.04.a What are the chemical components that influence emotion?
 - SS.POK.10.04.b What are the consequences of emotion in relation to knowing?
 - SS.POK.10.04.c Can you know without emotion?
- SS. POK.10.05 Students will define Reason as a way of knowing.
 - SS.POK.10.05.a Is logic a fundamental part of reason?
 - SS.POK.10.05.b Can someone be reasonable without being logical?
 - SS.POK.10.05.c How does a person reason?

SS.POK.15 Reasoning and Logic

This unit examines ways the human mind reasons and has as its focus question: When does logic fail to explain things?

- SS. POK.15.01 Students will define the patterns of logical thought.
- SS. POK.15.02 Students will examine alternate methods of reasoning such as Adductive and Inductive.
- SS. POK.15.03 Students will identify the classic fallacies
 - SS.POK.15.03.a Learn to avoid the fallacies in written and verbal arguments.
 - SS.POK.15.03.b Identify fallacies in others' arguments.
- SS. POK.15.04 Students will assess the utility of logic and reasoning for acquiring and comprehending knowledge.
- SS. POK.15.05 Students will draw connections between logic and other ways of knowing.

SS. POK.20 Natural Science

This unit examines the concepts of the physical sciences as a way of knowing and has as its focus question: Why is all knowledge relative?

- SS. POK.20.01 Students will assess the systems of scientific discovery as ways of acquiring knowledge.
 - SS.POK.20.01.a How does scientific knowledge evolve?
 - SS.POK.20.01.b How does this evolution impact knowledge?
- SS. POK.20.02 Students will assess how scientific knowledge is applied. - How do you use scientific knowledge in your daily life?
- SS. POK.20.03 Students will investigate the difference between correlation and causation – How does the problem of causation affect the study of science?
- SS. POK.20.04 Students will draw connections between the Natural Sciences and other areas of knowledge.

SS. POK.25 Mathematics

This will explore mathematics as a way we measure the universe and has as its focus question: Can you lie with numbers?

- SS. POK.25.01 Students will assess the systems of mathematics as a way of acquiring knowledge. - How do we use rules to solve problems?
- SS. POK.25.02 Students will examine the limitations of mathematics.
- SS. POK.25.03 Students will draw connections between Mathematics and other areas of knowledge.
- SS. POK.25.04 Students will examine the difference between pure and applied mathematics.
- SS. POK.25.05 Students will assess how mathematical knowledge is applied. - How do you use mathematics in your daily life?

SS. POK.30 Ethics / Moral Judgement

In this unit students will compare and contrast moral system with that of others and has as its focus question: Is there a universal code of ethics?

- SS. POK.30.01 Students will examine different belief systems
- SS. POK.30.02 Students will assess how different belief systems affect what we know.
- SS. POK.30.03 Students will compare and contrast free-will and determinism.
- SS. POK.30.04 Students will draw connections between Ethics/Moral Judgment and other areas of knowledge.

SS.POK.35 Language

This unit will explore language as a way we gain knowledge and has as its focus question: How are a person's thoughts determined by the language(s) one thinks in?

- SS. POK.35.01 Students will assess the utility of language in expressing knowledge.- How does jargon affect knowledge?
- SS. POK.35.02 Students will evaluate the impact of non-verbal communication. –Is non-verbal communication language?
- SS. POK.35.03 Students will investigate the universal nature of language. – What do all languages have in common?
- SS. POK.35.04 Students will explore limitations of language as a tool to communicate.
- SS. POK.35.05 Students will draw connections between language and other areas of knowledge.

SS. POK.40 Social Science

This unit examines knowledge in the social sciences and has as its focus question: What are the problems associated with studying people?

- SS. POK.40.01 Students will assess the systems by which we study the social sciences to gain knowledge.
 - SS.POK.40.01.a What is the scientific nature of the social sciences?
 - SS.POK.40.01.b Investigate the importance of statistics to social sciences and how it affects their validity.
- SS. POK.40.02 Students will assess the limits of knowledge in the Social Sciences and the implications of such limitations.
- SS. POK.40.03 Students will draw connections between the Social Sciences and other areas of knowledge.

SS. POK.45 History

This unit examines history as a way of knowing and has as its focus question: Why is history important to knowledge?

- SS. POK.45.01 Students will assess the systems by which we study history.
- SS. POK.45.02 Students will assess the limitations of knowledge in history.
 - SS.POK.45.02.a “History is written by the Victors.” – Niccolo Machiavelli – How does this quote address a problem of knowledge in history?
 - SS.POK.45.02.b How does bias affect the study of history as knowledge?
- SS. POK.45.03 Students will draw connections between the History and the other areas of knowledge.

SS. POK.50 Aesthetic Judgment

This unit will examine aesthetics as a way of knowing and has as its focus question: What is good?

- SS. POK.50.01 Students will assess the systems by which we study aesthetics.
- SS. POK.50.02 Students will make connections between what they value and aesthetic judgment.
- SS. POK.50.03 Students will assess how the arts are used as propaganda.
- SS. POK.50.04 Students will draw connections between the Aesthetics and the other areas of knowledge.