

## **G/T SOCIAL STUDIES – GRADE 6 and 7 CLASS DESCRIPTION**

The middle school social studies curriculum is an enriched program which provides teachers with opportunities for differentiation in both a prescribed manner and through decisions based on proven curricular strategies. What follows is a brief description of the content for each grade, as well as an overview of the aforementioned differentiation strategies.

### **Grades Six and Seven -- G/T Geography and World Cultures**

This two-year program provides opportunities for students to develop an understanding of geographic skills and concepts, of world cultures in relation to their own, of regional geographic and cultural issues, and of the cultural heritage and history of these regions. Students are encouraged to gain an understanding and appreciation of other cultures, and to use geographic skills to solve problems. The content and subject matter have been developed to incorporate the Maryland State Learning Outcomes for Social Studies, as well as national standards documents which reflect current research in social studies educational practices.

In addition to units in geographic skills and culture, students study regions of the world and apply these previously learned skills. In Grade Six, the regional units are: *Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa and the Middle East, Asia*. In Grade Seven the units are *Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Russia, and the Eurasian Republics, Latin America, Canada, and The Geography of the United States*.

### **Differentiation Through the Use of Specific Objectives**

Specific gifted and talented objectives for social studies are included in the *Essential Curriculum Documents* for grades 6-8. Each specific G/T objective is aligned with another standard objective. These G/T objectives are to supplant the objective with which it is aligned as they often encompass the standard objective due to their depth and scope.

### **Differentiation Through Guided Problem Solving: G/T Inquiries for Social Studies**

For most units in the *Essential Curriculum Documents* for middle school social studies, there is one "G/T Inquiry" that is grounded in the content of that particular unit. These inquiries are broad questions which are to be used as springboards for classroom research and problem solving activities. G/T social studies teachers are to utilize two of these inquiries per year to initiate a 5-10 day classroom problem solving exploration based upon a social science research model.