**Social Studies (2023-2024)**

**Social Studies: Ancient Greek Civilization and Mythology - Fall 2023**

**Overview:** We will learn about ancient Greek Civilization and mythology through an interactive group simulation activity. Students will think about, and participate in ideas and events of the past to better understand how a particular period of history influences life today. We will study the myths and teachings that belong to the ancient Greeks concerning their gods and heroes. Students will get a glimpse of ancient Greece by studying its history, philosophy, religion, science, math, language, art, architecture, theater, and cultural achievements.

**Objectives:** By the end of the semester students will...

* Learn a general history of ancient Greece.
* Understand the cultural achievements of ancient Greece and how those have affected Western society.
* Identify and locate key places on a map of Greece and describe how geography played an important role in the independent city states.
* Identify specific gods and goddesses and the role they played in Greek life.
* Understand the origins and development of Greek democracy.
* Compete in mock competitions and Olympic games.
* Perform Greek plays through a readers theater format
* Apply strategies to read with understanding, contribute to discussions, interpret content, and work collaboratively in small groups.

**Social Studies: Spring Semester 2024**

**Overview:** In this unit, students will explore the specific resources that are distinctly tied to particular regions, and economic “booms” in Colorado. The focus of study will be centered on the location of, and mining of Earth’s materials. The historical, economic, social, and environmental impacts of these events will be investigated. Various perspectives of historical events will be considered and compared.

**Objectives:** By the unit students will be able to:

* Identify regions and locations of various natural resources on a map of Colorado
* Define and describe the process of mining of various resources
* Describe how changing values bring about boom and bust economic cycles that shape the future and direction of a state’s growth
* Give examples of how humans alter and adapt to existing resources to meet personal, cultural, and economic needs
* Describe the potential personal, local, and global risks/benefits of an economic decision
* Compare, contrast, and discuss various historical perspectives

Field Trip: (pending) Colorado Mining Museum

**Science 2023-2024**

**Science: Ecology Fall Semester 2023**

**Overview:** In this unit we will investigate how all living and nonliving things interact. Students will explore the many interactions that result in the diversity of populations, communities and ecosystems. Models and case studies will be explored to show how matter and energy flows through the biosphere.

**Objectives:** By the end of the semester students will...

* Differentiate between biotic and abiotic factors
* Define ecology at the different levels of organization (population, community, ecosystem, and biomes)
* Identify and explain the factors that increase/decrease a population over time
* Construct and compare food chains and food webs
* Explain the flow of energy and matter in an ecosystem
* Apply strategies to read with understanding, contribute to discussion, interpret content and work collaboratively in small groups.

**Science: Earth’s Materials Spring Semester 2024**

**Overview:** In order to understand how natural resources are distributed and limited, students will spend time studying water, soil, minerals, crystals, rocks and their properties. We will discover how resources are used in our lives. We will also look at how matter is cycled through the water, rock, and carbon cycles. Students will classify rocks and minerals through testing. We will focus on the resources, rocks, and minerals found in Colorado.

**Objectives:** By the end of the semester students will...

* Identify types of Earth’s natural resources and explain how they are used in the world
* Explain how Earth’s materials are distributed and provide evidence of how Earth has changed over time
* Describe the basic structure of minerals and rocks, and identify different minerals by using their physical properties
* Demonstrate understanding of how matter and energy cycle and flow through the Earth System
* Apply strategies to read with understanding, contribute to discussion, interpret content and work collaboratively in small groups.

Field Trip: (pending) Colorado Mining Museum