

Eighth Grade U.S. History Students and Parents:

Soon you will be making choices regarding next year's classes at the high school. Among these important decisions is the one you will make with respect to the social studies curriculum at the high school level. Ninth graders have several options from which to choose:

**Choice One** (Honors)

Pre-IB World History: a two-semester/two-credit course designed for the student who wants to be challenged at a higher level than the standard World History class. This class is the best preparation for the student who is considering pursuing an IB Certificate or Diploma.

**Choice Two** (Regular)

World History and Civilization I: offered the first semester, a one-credit course about the nonwestern world. This is the standard World History course for all students.

World History and Civilization II: offered the second semester, a one-credit course about the western world. This is the standard World History course for all students.

**Choice Three** (Regular)

Geography and History of the World: a two-semester/two-credit course with emphasis on geography in a context of world history 1450 to the present. This class is as challenging as the World History and Civilization courses, though there may be more hands-on work with maps and more memorization.

**Choice Four**

Because Social Studies is not required freshman year, students may wait to begin their social studies coursework as sophomores. This provides flexibility in scheduling music, study halls and other electives while you make certain you meet the requirements of the Core 40 diploma required for college bound students. Choosing this option will help you if you are concerned about the workload and your transition to high school. This choice is not recommended for students who are considering pursuing the IB Program.

Hints to help you decide which course to choose and whether Pre-IB is right for you:

1. Are you a self-motivated learner?
2. Do you have good study habits?
3. Are you willing to work independently?
4. Have you been successful in your middle school history classes?
5. Which do you find more interesting—geography or history?
6. Are you ready for the demanding workload at the high school?

If you have more specific questions about which course is right for you, I will be happy to talk with you about your decision.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Gioia