

7 SOCIAL STUDIES

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Social Studies helps learners develop critical thinking abilities and enables them to participate in society as well-informed and engaged citizens. The goal of Social Studies education is to help learners understand their place in the world through inquiry, an appreciation of first-voice, an understanding of place, collaboration, decision-making, perspectives and worldview, recognizing bias, interpreting primary and secondary sources, communicating for social studies purposes, and advocacy.

Topics:

- **The Past-Present Relationship**
 - o Learners will investigate how understanding our past helps to understand our present
- **The Treaty Relationship**
 - o Learners will investigate what it means to be a treaty person in Mi'kma'ki
 - o Learners will analyse relationships to land from indigenous and nonindigenous perspectives
- **Perspective, Voice, and Empowerment**
 - o Learners will investigate how diverse perspectives influence what is now considered Canada
 - o Learners will analyse concepts of empowerment in a changing society
- **Globalization**
 - o Learners will evaluate how globalization continually changes the world
- **Cooperation and Conflict**
 - o Learners will analyse the causes and outcomes of conflict and cooperation in Canada
 - o Learners will analyse the causes and outcomes of global conflict, cooperation, and peace

Evaluations and Assessments:

- Formative Assessment (day-to-day ongoing student monitoring)
- Class Participation (discussions, debates, question period, etc.)
- Individual and Group Projects (Inquiry based focus)
- Summative Assessments (Written and Oral Assessments)

- Student work will be posted in google classroom

Curricula Renewal Grade 7 & 8

Over the past school year, teams of teachers have worked at the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to renew curricula for grades 7 and 8 using a *universal design for learning* approach to support student-centred learning. Highland Park was selected to pilot the new, draft curricula for the 2018/2019 school year.

Universal Design for Learning:

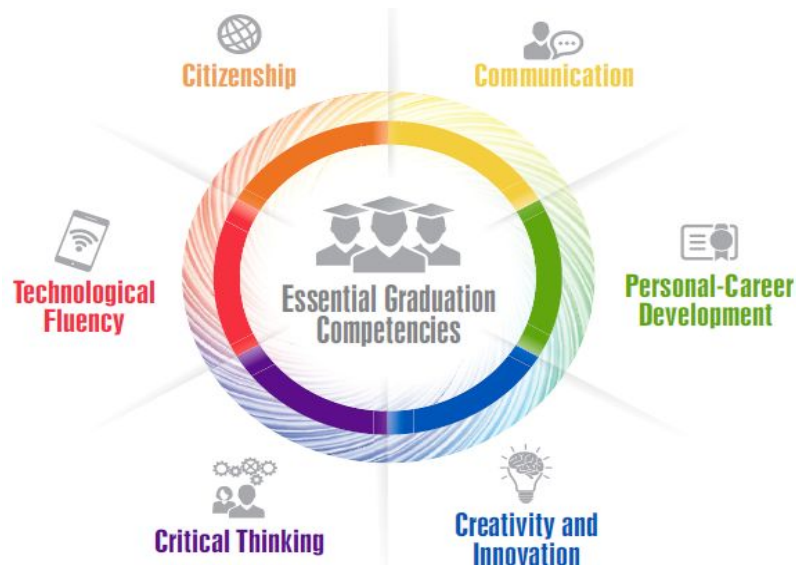
Universal design for learning encompasses curricula design, learning resources, instruction, and assessment practices that guide the development of a flexible learning environment focused on accommodating and supporting individual learning needs.

Inquiry Based Learning: *Learners are engaged in the learning process and they make decisions and take ownership and responsibility for their learning and discovery. Inquiry can be a guided or an open process, allowing learners to identify questions for investigation and independently or collaboratively design a plan to discover meaning.*

Cross-curricular/ project-based learning:

An instructional method in which learners perform an active and dynamic exploration of authentic real-world problems and challenges.

A **competency** is an interrelated set of attitudes, skills and knowledge that is drawn upon and applied to a particular context for successful learning and living.



Competencies are developed over time through outcomes and a supportive learning environment.