

6TH, 7TH, & 8TH GRADE CLASSES AT ST. CATHERINE SCHOOL are a combination of studies that comprises the World Cultures, Texas, and Colonial American History. All classes are developed to include the various strands of education required by the State of Texas.

In the 6th Grade, World Cultures students learn geography in spatial terms, places and regions, physical systems, human systems, environment and society, and the use of geography. The curriculum also includes the various religions of each country studied. Such topics as economics, methods of education, religions, and combinations of governments are added to their study. Weekly, the students present an oral current event. They are given a format to follow so that the presentation is creditable and easily understood. During the course of year, projects are required such as, Ring of Fire (a poster depicting major volcanic activity in the Pacific Ocean), Vacation in Europe (a daily journal of a country describing the architect, food, and places of interest), a Japanese Luncheon (students are served a typical oriental luncheon and learn to eat with chopsticks), a letter to a friend in another state (students select a state and correspond with a student of their age).

In the 7th Grade, The State of Texas is studied from the time of Native Americans, early settlers, to modern day Texans. The students learn how the geography of Texas interacts with human development because of the abundant natural resources and the vast open spaces of each region. Attention is given to the founders of our state, and the rich heritage of their struggle to be an independent republic. Students learn how strong family values helped to create such individuals as life centered on the home, work ethics, and religion. The working of government is viewed in the community and state as the students embrace good citizenship. Understanding the basics of technology and industrial centers and how they developed into world centers of trade are included in the curriculum. Projects such as reproducing a Spanish Mission, designing a personal cattle brand, learning how cattle drives were first developed, and research for a power-point presentation of famous modern day Texans are required.

In the 8th Grade, Colonial United States is studied from the time the first humans crossed the ice bridges of the Bering Straits to the American Civil War. Areas of study include the Western European influence to motivate the colonials desire for free thinking; the Revolutionary War; the struggle to create a new form of government; the development of the free enterprise system; and participation in the new democratic government. Special attention is placed on student preparation for high school. Emphasis is given to thematic essays, critical thinking skills, strong character skills, and class discussions. Major historical documents are reviewed as students discover their importance. Activities have included participating in a mock national census, debating the federal and state elections, mentoring the first grade class in religion, creating posters for Colonial American. The class plans an overnight field trip to Austin and San Antonio to experience government in action.