



STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Curriculum Overview Exploring Local History

Course Description:

This year-long elective course will furnish students with an opportunity for an in-depth study of the abundant local history of Stafford County and the greater Fredericksburg region. The focus of the course will be a multi-perspective examination of the people and places of the greater Fredericksburg region and the effect they had on Virginia, U.S., and world history. The course will emphasize 21st Century learning skills of information literacy, communication, critical thinking, citizenship, and independent and collaborative learning. Key to successful completion of this course will be ability to conduct research and complete projects. Students enrolling in the course should have an interest in United States history.

Essential Skills/Processes: Students will

- Conduct independent research and work collaboratively to complete projects and presentations.
- Identify, analyze, and interpret primary and secondary source documents, records, data, including artifacts, diaries, letters, photographs, journals, newspapers, historical accounts, and art, to increase understanding of events and life in the greater Fredericksburg region.
- Evaluate the authenticity, authority, and credibility of sources.
- Develop multiple perspectives of people, time, and place in Stafford and regional history.
- Identify the costs and benefits of specific choices made, including the consequences, both intended and unintended, of the decisions and how people and nations responded to positive and negative consequences.

Project-Based Learning Ideas

- Collaboration with local historic sites.
- Creation of a local history documentaries.
- Website development.
- Collect, catalog, and digitize local historic resources.
- Oral history research and recording.
- Lessons and resources for elementary schools.
- Publication of articles in school newspapers and Free Lance-Star

Essential Knowledge:

Through the use of project-based learning, students may explore the following topics:

Two World Collide: Pre-Colonial and Colonial America

- Dinosaurs and Fossils
- Patowomeck and other American Indian tribes
- John Smith's Explorations of the region and Pocahontas' kidnapping
- First Settlers: The Brents and Religious Freedom
- Aquia Episcopal Church
- Thomas Jefferson and the Statute of Religious Freedom

Forging a New Nation: The American Revolution, The Constitution, and Early National Period

- The Two Georges of Stafford: Washington and Mason
- Hunter Iron Works and Fielding Lewis
- The Rappahannock River: Colonial Highway
- Government Island: Birthstone of the White House and Capitol
- Falmouth Industrialists: Joseph Ficklen, Bazil Gordon, and Duff Green

Civil War, Reconstruction, and its Legacy

- The Fight for Freedom: Moncure Conway, Anthony Burns, and John Washington
- Region Torn Apart: Battles and Camps
- Civil War Firsts: Hot Air Ballons and Amphibious Assault
- Rebuilding and Recovery
- The Lost Cause Era: Monuments and Cemeteries
- Building the National Park and Battlefield Preservation

Post-Reconstruction and Civil Rights

- Technological Innovations: Samuel Langley's Experiments, Electrification, and Roads
- John Lee Pratt
- A Segregated Society
- Artists in the Area: Palmer Hayden and Gari Melchers
- Kate Waller Barrett
- Integration of Schools
- Fredericksburg Sit-Ins

World Wars and the Cold War

- Those Who Served: Spotlight on Veterans
- Dr. Urbane Bass
- Creation of Quantico
- On the Homefront: Wars Impacts on the Region
- Interstate 95 and Suburbia

Modern Developments and Challenges

- Shifting Economic Zones: Balancing Development, Housing, and Green Spaces
- Living in a Commuter Community
- The Stafford Airport
- Traffic Jams: HOV, VRE, Bridges over 95, Beltway
- Growing Role of the Federal Government in the Region
- Preserving History in Times of Change

Resources:

- Stafford County Museum and Cultural Center, <http://staffordcountymuseum.com/>
- Fredericksburg Area Museum, <https://famva.org/>
- Central Rappahannock Heritage Center, <http://crhcarchives.org/>
- Central Rappahannock Regional Library, <http://www.librarypoint.org/>
- Library of Virginia, <http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/>
- Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/collections/>
- National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/frsp/index.htm>