

Social Studies (Brad Lopes)

Social Studies is the study of people--our history and interactions, and, most importantly, how we understand these concepts and the world around us based on the positions we occupy—our positionality. It is from our position in society that we attempt to make sense of everything from our differing histories to our shared, yet uniquely experienced, cultural practices.

Social studies is crucial for individuals because it gives them an understanding for how the world around them was formed and how they may impact the future in similar or entirely different ways.

Social studies also provides individuals with a deeper understanding of who they are and how the position(s) they occupy impact how they view the world around them. Additionally, this field of study aids individuals in becoming more informed, critical, and compassionate members of society.

Prior to leaving The New School, students will gain experience with critical skills and content areas that will provide a solid foundation for further studies beyond high school.

- Ability to understand and analyze historical writings and documents
- Inquiry skills, such as developing driving questions, conducting research, recording and crediting sources, and forming effective arguments and opinions
- Critically analyzing and breakdown of social, cultural, or historical issues based on a variety of diverse sources
- In-depth understanding of how positionality can influence their point of view
- Addressing multiple eras in history that cater to student interests/needs

Social studies plays well with other subjects, and students at The New School can expect interdisciplinary offerings in social studies on a routine basis.

The Arts (Marylyn Wentworth)

The arts are an important part of the curriculum at TNS. The arts fuel imagination and personal expression. They contribute to the development of a sense of self that feeds intuition, close observation of the world and the ability to fuse emotion and intellect. The arts also build self-confidence and the ability to connect with an audience beyond the self.

We offer a variety of opportunities that vary from year to year. Of late photography, music, and theater have been of special interest to a number of students. Some years it is painting, pottery, sculpture, drawing. We encourage the playing of guitars, or which there are many in the school. We encourage whatever form of artistic expression comes to the fore. We respond to the interests of the students.

Local artists are frequently our source of inspiration and teaching for the students. Their enthusiasm for sharing their passion gives students the opportunity to interact with professional artists and form relationships with adults beyond their core teachers.

In the spring of 2017 the Brick Store Museum in Kennebunk featured our students in an art show. It was quite sensational. Each year we have an exhibit of some sort to showcase the work of the students. We

find that the balance between academic pursuits and artistic expression meets our belief in holistic education.