

**Program of Studies Changes
2013-2014**

SOCIAL STUDIES

- **Establish a prerequisite of B+ in 8th Grade US History for Honors Civics and Government.**

Rationale:

Teachers have analyzed student success in the course and preparedness of students for the course as they enter their freshman year. The data indicates that students who have achieved a grade of B+ or better in their 8th grade Social Studies course are prepared for the level of rigor in Honors Civics and Government.

- **Replace AP European History with AP World History.**

Rationale:

We have been discussing this change for a few years. As a school that has been integrating global studies into our existing curricula, we feel that offering AP World History is a natural fit for us. This course will better serve our student's academic needs, as it will expand beyond European History to include other countries as well. The two major factors that drove our decision were the growing requests from students and parents and the impending Keystone Exam in World History.

- **Establish a prerequisite for AP Psychology of an overall GPA of 3.0 (B)**

Rationale:

Our goal with the AP Psychology course was to allow students who wanted to challenge themselves the opportunity to take an AP course that was an elective. In doing so, we have analyzed our student's performance in the course and found that each year we have an average of 10 students who end up dropping out of the course because of the level of difficulty. We feel that establishing a benchmark for students of a GPA of 3.0 will better guide students in selecting this course as an elective and help them understand the level of rigor in the course. The course is designed for juniors and seniors who are prepared for an AP level course.

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