History at Burke

The History Department at Burke proudly offers both a challenging curriculum with a diverse range of integrated courses from the 6th through the 12th grade and progressive teaching. Our goal is for students to develop a critical understanding of history and other cultures as well as become critical and independent analytical thinkers and master academic skills. We are committed to:

- making students see history from a variety of critical viewpoints
- emphasizing global, multicultural, and diverse stories
- empowering students to take charge of their own learning
- using a variety of formats including field trips, technology, collaborative projects, team competitions, debates, role-plays, display projects (museum installations), publishing projects (magazines, newspapers, etc.), journal writing, and oral history projects.

History Curriculum

6th Grade: History and Social Studies (integrated into 6th Grade Core)
- students begin with the essential question “where am I?” and study the DC / Chesapeake Bay region, then move to states, nation, world, and universe
- introduction to key skills (reading, writing, research, presentation, etc.)
- collaborative projects (emphasis on community building)
- inter-disciplinary approach

7th Grade: World Geography & Cultures
- Latin America, Asia, Africa
- Integrating anthropology, geography, economics and history and research skills
- comparative cultures, ecosystems
- capstone project: The African Magazine Project

8th Grade: Topics in U.S. History
- in-depth look at eight eras in U.S. History
- focus on reading comprehension, primary source reading and analysis, critical thinking, analytical writing, and research skills
- project-based and collaborative work
9th Grade: Three Separate Trimester Courses in World Area Studies
Students take 3 of the following 4 courses: African Studies, Asian Studies, Classical Studies or Medieval Studies.

- fresh approaches - 3 different teachers and 3 separate subjects
- introduction to high-school level critical thinking and analysis
- introduction to analytical essay writing
- emphasis on oral presentation and debating skills

10th Grade: Modern World History

- survey course of world history from 15th century to the present
- examines issues of globalization, war/peace, politics, economics, cultures, technology, religion, intellectual and art history, race, gender, class, and more.
- analysis of history from variety of viewpoints, looking at biases in interpretation and formulating arguments based on historical evidence
- analytical writing and research skills culminating in a 6-8 page research paper.

11th Grade: United States History (AP US History or US History)

A.P. U.S. History:

- full survey course (pre-Columbian Era to the present) in preparation for the May AP exam.
- focus on social/cultural/political history
- emphasis on Document-Based Questions (DBQs) and primary source analysis
- major research paper: Presidential Project (primary sources in college library)
- seminar approach where students must exhibit mastery of material

U.S. History:

- full survey course (pre-Columbian Era to the Present)
- uses same textbook as AP, but different course pacing and emphases
- varied instructional formats, including role-plays, debates, team competitions, oral presentations, display projects, skits, and more.
- analytical writing and research culminating in an 8-10 page research paper.

12th Grade: Senior Electives

Yearlong Courses: AP Art History, AP Economics - Micro-Economics & Macro-Economic) (college-level)

Trimester Courses (Sampling of Current and Recent Courses Offered):