Progressive and challenging, Burke places a dual emphasis on Western political and cultural heritage and world history and globalization. Our students develop as critical and independent thinkers who master academic skills, especially research and writing. In history classes, collaborative activities, including projects and deliberations, foster both personal responsibility and humility to gain a better understanding of the past.

**Course Sequence**

- **9th Grade**: one global area-based course per trimester, including African Studies, Chinese Studies, Classical Studies, and Medieval Studies
- **10th Grade**: survey course in Modern World History, which explores globalization, war and peace, religion, the visual arts, and more from 1491 to the late 20th century
- **11th Grade**: survey course in United States history, exploring how social, political, cultural, and environmental movements from the 15th century to the late 20th affected our people and our nation*

**Elective Courses**

- Advanced Art History*
- Advanced Economics*
- Behavioral Psychology
- Comparative Government
- Future Studies
- Independent Studies
- Religious Philosophy
- Social Psychology
- Senior Seminars
- United States Government

(*) students have the option to take the Advancement Plan exam in these subjects
Assignments and Projects

- History lessons, homework, and assessments demand sound research, critical analysis, and creative presentation through moviemaking, podcasts, debates, Socratic seminars, simulations, analytical essays, tests, and more.
- Students in 10th and 11th Grade complete a major independent research project; these experiences prepare students for sophisticated, substantial analytical research in the Senior Seminar courses.
- 11th Graders undertake a year-long, cross-curricular examination of environmental justice, storytelling, and labor history in preparation for a week-long experiential learning trip to West Virginia.
- Recent 12th Grade Senior Seminars have included American Conservatism, American Education, Ancient Mediterranean History, Disability Studies, and Modern Capitalism.

Preparation for College

Students conclude High School History with:

- critical faculty, research capabilities, and strength in analytical reasoning
- curiosity and capacity for self-expression
- ability to think independently as historians and social scientists
- confidence in their ability to challenge popular viewpoints, stand up for what they believe, and engage in thoughtful deliberation
- capacity to make educated, informed and socially responsible contributions to civic improvement and social justice