



*Al Retaj International School*

*"Together Towards Success"*

## Middle School Social Studies Course Description (Academic Year 2020-2021)

The focus of this course is the study of the world's peoples, places, and environments, with an emphasis on world regions. This course follows the Virginia Standards. The knowledge, skills, and perspectives of the course are centered on the world's peoples and their cultural characteristics, landforms and climates, economic development, and migration and settlement patterns. Spatial concepts of geography will be used as a framework for studying interactions between humans and their environments. Using geographic resources, students will employ inquiry, research, and technology skills to ask and answer geographic questions. Particular emphasis will be placed on students understanding and applying geographic concepts and skills to their daily lives. The study of history rests on knowledge of dates, names, places, events, and ideas. Historical understanding, however, requires students to engage in historical thinking, raise questions, and marshal evidence in support of their answers. Students engaged in historical thinking draw upon chronological thinking, historical comprehension, historical analysis and interpretation, historical research, and decision making. These skills are developed through the study of significant historical substance from the era or society being studied.