

Social Studies Curriculum “Quick Guide” to Holidays and Commemorations

State and/or federal law requires students in our classrooms and schools to commemorate certain historic moments and accomplishments of past generations. The following “Quick Guide” summarizes major legislative requirements for Social Studies classrooms.

- Resources for fulfilling these requirements can be accessed through the Oklahoma State Department of Education’s Social Studies website, <https://sde.ok.gov/social-studies>

For more information, contact the Curriculum Office at 366-5837

State or Federal Commemoration	Date:	Grades:	Requirements:
9/11 Memorial Day	September 11	Grade 6-12	History and Geography classes are <u>recommended</u> to commemorate the events of the terrorist attacks of 9/11
Constitution Day	September 17	3-12	Site educational program on the United States Constitution, including instruction on some facet of its historical antecedents, its impact on history or today's society. NPS requires all students in grades 5, 8, and 12 devote a portion of the class period to Constitution Day studies
National Hispanic Heritage Month	Sept. 15-October 15	all	Teachers are encouraged by OK Academic Standards (adopted 2019) to commemorate the month designated to the contributions of significant groups to the American nation.
Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples’ Day	October 12	all	The OK Academic Standards require students to describe or explain how we honor people and events of the past that are commemorated with a specified holiday.
National Native American Heritage Month	November	all	Teachers are encouraged by OK Academic Standards (adopted 2019) to commemorate the month designated to the contributions of significant groups to the American nation.
Veterans Day	November 11 <i>(If falling on the weekend, the Friday prior to Nov. 11th shall be commemorated as Veterans Day)</i>	All sites	School program or one lesson period devoted to commemorating contributions of American veterans; NPS recommends all students in 5th, 8th, and 11th U.S. History devote the class period to Veterans Day studies, if site programs are not provided.
Celebrate Freedom Week	The week in November in which Veterans Day (Nov. 11) falls.	3-12	All students will recite a passage from the Declaration of Independence, as prescribed by state law, through school-wide assembly or classroom recitations. (Students may be exempt from recitation according to state law.) NPS students in grades 5, 8, 11, and 12 will devote additional class periods throughout the school year to the study of the Declaration’s principles applied to significant historic and contemporary events, as prescribed by state law and required by state and/or district curriculum for each grade level.

Thanksgiving Day	Fourth Thursday in November.	Elementary	The OK Academic Standards require students to describe or explain how we honor people and events of the past that are commemorated with a specified holiday.
Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday	Third Monday in January	all	The OK Academic Standards require students to describe or explain how we honor people and events of the past that are commemorated with a specified holiday.
Black History Month	February	all	Teachers are encouraged by OK Academic Standards (adopted 2019) to commemorate the month designated to the contributions of significant groups to the American nation.
Pres. Abraham Lincoln's Birthday	February 12	PreK, K, 1, 2, 3	The OK Academic Standards require students to describe or explain how we honor people and events of the past that are commemorated with a specified holiday.
Pres. George Washington's Birthday	February 22	PreK, K, 1, 2, 3	The OK Academic Standards require students to describe or explain how we honor people and events of the past that are commemorated with a specified holiday.
Women's History Month	March	all	Teachers are encouraged by OK Academic Standards (adopted 2019) to commemorate the month designated to the contributions of significant groups to the American nation.
OKC Memorial Day	Grade 6 - April 19 th Grade 7- SW Asia unit Okla. Hist. – prior to Winter Holiday; week of April 19 (2 nd semester) US/World = Units of Study prior to May 15	6-11	History and Geography classes are recommended to commemorate the events of the OKC terrorist bombing
Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month	May	all	Teachers are encouraged by OK Academic Standards (adopted 2019) to commemorate the month designated to the contributions of significant groups to the American nation.
Flag Day & Flag Etiquette	Once per year (Flag Day is June 14)	K, 1, 2, 3	Instruction regarding the appropriate care and display of the American flag.
Independence Day	Once per year (since it is July 4 th during Summer Break)	PreK, K, 1, 2, 3	The OK Academic Standards require students to describe or explain how we honor people and events of the past that are commemorated with a specified holiday.