

Voices & Choices[™]

Voices & Choices is an innovative middle school curriculum that uses 21st century resources to improve student outcomes in social studies while preparing students to become active, responsible citizens in our complex world.

Merging core social studies concepts with 21st century skills, *Voices & Choices* engages students in an interactive learning environment where structured inquiry becomes the basis for role plays, debates, authentic research, writing and oral presentations. Content and interactive technologies are seamlessly integrated, offering multiple opportunities for students and teachers to enliven and enrich their understanding of the world around them.

A comprehensive professional development program offers teachers the support they need to successfully implement the curriculum, which is aligned with the NYS Learning Standards for Social Studies and ISTE NETS for students.

Civic Responsibility for the Digital Age

Voices & Choices introduces students to the foundations, issues and responsibilities of democracy and citizenship in a series of units, **Democracy in Ancient Greece** (6th grade), **Constitution Today** (7th grade) and **Civil Rights** (8th grade).

Throughout the four to six week units, critical-thinking, collaboration and other essential skills are developed through debates, independent research, role plays, writing and oral presentations. When *Voices & Choices* students participate in a citywide Civil Rights Summit or Constitution Today Town Meeting, they showcase the results of their learning — and the lessons of civic responsibility — in a public forum.

Technology-based resources enhance instruction in multiple ways, starting

when teachers log on to each unit's website to access lesson plans, classroom visuals and their classroom blog, a dedicated area for collecting, evaluating and publishing student work. In every lesson, students are kept engaged by amusing animated videos and curriculum-based multimedia activities and tutorials.

Lesson plans, available in both digital and print formats, include differentiated instruction. Digital materials are Moodle compliant, easily integrated into a school's Learning Management System.

Voices & Choices is presented as a model digital curriculum in Teaching Matters' Partnership for School Innovation and is also available as stand-alone program.

For more information, visit: <http://www.teachingmatters.org/voicesandchoices>

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