7th Grade World Cultures and Geography Syllabus

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| Instructor**Mr. William Jacobs**Phone(314) 214-2295Ext. 22214EmailWilliam.jacobs@slps.orgOffice LocationGateway MST Middle SchoolRm. 207**Office Hours:**M-F12:16-1:20 | Course Overview:World Cultures and Geography is an introduction to the world around us. This can be an exciting and fun time, I encourage all students to keep your eyes, ears and minds open. During the year, we will explore the physical places of our world and the relationship between humans and their environments. While we will spend plenty of time learning about physical geography, much of this course is a people-centered study involving a look at the world’s major cultures. The study of each of these cultures will focus upon historical and present-day culture, family life and structure, social organizations, attitude on education, religious beliefs and institutions, economic life, political trends, and the intellectual and artistic accomplishments of people within the culture. The study of each of the cultures will be supplemented by the development of reading, writing, research, geography, critical thinking, study skills/note-taking, technology use and presentation skills. We have a tremendous opportunity to learn and grow together as we work towards the goal of preparing students to participate in a global society, equipped with the fundamental knowledge of geography and culture.**Course Expectations:**By the end of the course students will be able to: * ***Identify major components of the physical world and discuss their impact on various populations around the world.***
* ***Discuss the historical and current interactions of different populations and cultures.***
* ***Compare and contrast less developed and more developed countries/regions based on demographic, governmental, economic, and cultural characteristics.***
* ***Demonstrate knowledge of current national and global issues for the world’s regions.***

Course MaterialsStudents will need the following supplies:Spiral notebook- college ruled preferred Colored pencilsBlue or black ink pensAssignments and grading policy:This course involves, reading, writing, project based learning and group discussion. Students will need to practice or read some class material outside of the classroom. In addition, there may be times that students need to work outside of class to prepare assignments or projects. Basic library and on-line research skills are necessary for some work. We will work together throughout the year to develop and improve research skills. Students will need to put forth consistent effort daily in order to maintain course pace and be successful. It is critical that students actively participate in their learning. Participation includes involvement in class discussion or activities, completion of homework and in class assignments. Not only does active participation help the student’s grade, it enriches the classroom with a wide variety of experiences, beliefs and observations.  Grading will be in accordance with the school policy found in the student handbook. Individual categories of work (daily assignments, quizzes, test, and projects) are equally weighted. However, point value can differ and can have a large impact on overall grades. Unit and final exams will occur at the completion of units of study or semester/quarter end. **Late work:** Late work will be accepted without penalty for the first school week after the assigned due date. Late work submitted after 5 days will be penalized 10 percent. Late work submitted more than 5 days late will be eligible for a maximum score of 70%**Missing work:** Missing work can be made up. However, there are times when there is no longer value in the original assignment. In these instances, we will work together to find a comparable assignment that can be completed.  |