

Social Studies 7th Grade - World Geography
2017-2018
Mrs. Stephanie Augello
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Social Studies Department Vision

We often view hard science as the only type of science. But science (from the Latin *scientia* -- knowledge) is something much more general, which isn't defined by decimal places and controlled experiments. It means the enterprise of explaining and predicting -- gaining knowledge of -- natural phenomena, by continually testing one's theories against empirical evidence. The world is full of phenomena that are intellectually challenging and important to understand, but that can't be measured to several decimal places in labs. They constitute much of ecology, evolution, and animal behavior; much of psychology and human behavior; and all the phenomena of human societies, including cultural anthropology, economics, history, and government. - *Jared Diamond*

Communication

Communication between teachers, parents, students, guidance and administration is vital to an effective learning environment. You are encouraged to share your questions and concerns at anytime. Email is the most direct method to communicate with me. I can be reached at saugello@basdschools.org. You will play an important role in your child's success this year. Please encourage your child to have good study habits and come to class prepared. You can also follow my classroom on **Twitter** - **@MrsAugelloClass** and our 7th grade team - **@NMSPennState**.

Course Description

Students will gain knowledge about the ever changing world they share with seven billion people. The ability to analyze information will be emphasized. The Five Themes of Geography will help to provide a framework for our study of Geography.

Student Textbook

World Explorer: Prentice Hall 2007

Required Student Supplies

3 Ring Binder - (Green if possible)
Colored Pencils
Thin colored markers for map labeling and Interactive Journal
Highlighter
Glue stick
Notebook paper
Ear buds

Major Course Objectives

- The student will be able to identify, apply and synthesize information using the 5 themes of Geography.

- The student will be able to apply Pennsylvania Eligible Geography Content to situations in their everyday life.
- The student will be able to discuss the role of geography in historical; current and future events.

Some of the Major Projects

1. Students will design a project showing their understanding of the 5 Themes of Geography.
2. Students will investigate our local watershed and how our environment impacts our watershed .
3. Students will create Products, often of their choice, on each major geographical region we study.
4. Current Events Project

Teacher Homework Policy

Homework will be given several times per week. Homework assignments are usually worth 5 points depending upon the nature of the assignment. These assignments are generally not accepted late, since we go over the assignments in class. Students who are concerned about their homework grade and would like to improve it can meet with me privately after school to draft an improvement plan. Students who are absent must obtain assignments upon return to school. These assignments will be accepted within a reasonable amount of time (i.e. if a student is absent two days - he/she has two days to make it up.). **It is the student's responsibility** to check for missed work AND contact the teacher after returning from an absence or before leaving for a planned absence. Consistent failure to do homework will result in parental contact, detentions, and/or administrative/guidance referral. Refer to student handbook for homework policy due to legal absence.

Teacher Grading Policy

Grading Policy is based on a "total points" system. A student's grade can be calculated by dividing earned points by total points. We encourage both parents and students to use eschool/parent portal as a tool to stay current and up to date on your child's grades and attendance. Grades will include homework assignments, projects, quizzes, and tests. Students will also be given a responsibility grade which includes coming to class prepared to learn and with required materials.

Classroom Management Plan

Student Expectations

1. Be ready to learn with all materials
2. Be respectful
3. Be responsible
4. Be an actively engaged learner.
5. Be a positive part of our school community by following classroom/school rules.

Consequences

1. Verbal Warning/student-teacher conference
2. Teacher Detention
3. Office referral
4. Parent/Guidance contact

Extra Help

Extra Help will be available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays after school. However I am available most days after school after bus duty and unless there are meetings scheduled. Arrangements can also be made for morning help upon student request.