



Maria Montessori Academy Junior High
2017-2018

Social Studies – World Geography Syllabus
Adrian Stumpp

Email: astumpp@mariamontessoriacademy.org

Blog: <http://blogs.mariamontessoriacademy.org/socialstudies/>

Room: P1-C1

Course Description:

Geography is described as the study of the “why of the where.” This class will explore how to use geography as a tool to better understand the world in which we live. Students will learn to evaluate and question the why and where of spatial perceptions that are read, seen and heard. The six standards identified below are best understood when using the following geographic themes: location, place, movement, region, and human-environmental interaction.

Students will understand:

The world in spatial terms

The human and physical characteristics of places and regions

How physical processes shape the earth’s surface

How human activities shape the earth’s surface

The interaction of physical and human systems

How geography connects to today’s world

Our class topics will fit in within the cycle themes:

Orientation: August 21st - September 8th

Change: September 11th- October 27th

Forces: October 30th- January 12th

Power: January 16th- March 15th

Connections: March 20th- May 25th

Course Expectations:

Students are expected to attend class regularly and on time. Students will need to be prepared to work each class period (having writing utensils available, follow directions, and bring their notebooks and binder each day). Students will also be expected to use speaking, reading, listening, and writing skills in this class. Students are encouraged to ask questions and be actively involved in learning and sharing their knowledge and experience with peers. Students are encouraged to accept accountability for the quality of their education. Students who demonstrate an ability to be responsible for their own education will receive a greater degree of freedom to choose their work than those who are not. Students are required to turn work in on



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to

time. If they cannot meet this requirement, it is the student's responsibility seek appropriate accommodations from the instructor.

Textbooks and Materials:

Students will use the World Atlas along with National Geographic and Smithsonian magazines in the classroom. Other useful resources and/or web links, when applicable, will be provided on the Social Studies blog listed above.

Grading Plan:

What the Student Knows	Score	Traditional Letter Grade
Exceeds Proficiency: In addition to Score 85, the student <u>uses inferences and applications that go beyond</u> what was explicitly taught in class.	95	A+
In addition to Score 85 performance, <u>partial success</u> at inferences and applications that go beyond what was directly explicitly in class.	90	A
Meets Proficiency: No major errors or omissions regarding any of the information and/or processes (simple or complex) that were explicitly taught.	85	B+
No major errors or omissions regarding the simpler details and process and partial knowledge of the more complex ideas and processes.	80	B
Approaching Proficiency: No major errors or omissions regarding the simpler details and processes but major errors or omissions regarding the more complex ideas and processes.	75	C+
Partial knowledge of the simpler details and processes but major errors or omissions regarding the more complex ideas and procedures.	70	C
Developing Proficiency: With help, a partial understanding of some of the simpler details and processes and some of the more complex ideas and processes.	65	D+
With help, a partial understanding of some of the simpler details and processes but not the more complex ideas and processes.	60	D
Even with help, no understanding or skill demonstrated.	59	F



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Course Policies:

Student Work:

Students will use communication, creative thinking, problem solving, critical thinking, research and presentations, social participation and cooperation. Plagiarism is not allowed at all in the classroom. If plagiarism is used in written/oral assignment or exam, that student will receive a failing grade on that assignment and possibly the entire course.

Portfolio:

Work from journals, handouts, assignments/projects, reports, or tests can all be used in student portfolios.

Group Activities:

Students are expected to participate fully in group activities. Using cooperation and communication skills, students will work together to research, present, and share ideas.

Homework Expectations:

Homework is applicable if a student did not finish his/her work in the classroom. Although some in-class time will be given, students are expected to do the majority of work for special projects at home.

Reassessing Work:

Because our school uses Standards Based Grading to assess student proficiency, students are welcome to resubmit work to demonstrate growing proficiency. If students are unhappy with assessed level of proficiency on a given standard, they are encouraged to work with the teacher to establish an alternative means of demonstrating mastery. However, students must submit each assignment by its due date in order to determine a baseline proficiency. If at least an attempt at the assignment has not been turned in by the due date, the option for reassessment will not be available.

Absences:

Please tell the instructor in advanced if you plan on being absent from class. You will have three days after the day you missed to turn in any work you might have missed.

Citizenship Grade:

Students will be observed using their grace and courtesy on a daily basis.

Class Rules:

Note: Students will help create class rules, expectations, and consequences the first couple weeks of school. Below are some examples:

Raise your hand to speak

Walk to the person to speak to them



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Slow deliberate movements

Be aware of what you are doing

Bullying of any kind will not be tolerated

Class Materials:

All students will need the following: pencils or pens, composition or spiral notebooks, three-ringed binder, and a water bottle.

Donations of the following items are much appreciated: compasses, maps of any kind, composition notebooks, pencils, graphing paper, highlighters, erasers, glue sticks, scissors, boxes of tissues, rulers, black fine-tip sharpie markers, old magazines.

I have read and understand the rules for _____ class.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian's Email Address: _____ and/or _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____