



# Maria Montessori Academy Junior High

## Social Studies – Geography Syllabus

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### 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 (standard 1)*

*the human and physical characteristics of places and regions (standard 2)*

*how physical processes shape the earth's surface (standard 3)*

*how human activities shape the earth's surface (standard 4)*

*the interaction of physical and human systems (standard 5)*

*how geography connects to today's world (standard 6)*

Our class topics will fit within the cycle theme of study:

*Orientation- Aug. 17-Sept. 4*

*Exploration- Sept. 7- Oct. 23*

*Identity- Oct. 24- Jan. 15*

*Systems- Jan. 16- Mar. 18*

*Interdependence- Mar. 19- May 26*

### Course Expectations:

Students will need to be prepared to work each class period (have their writing utensils with them, follow directions, and keep their notebooks and planners within reach). Students will also be expected to use speaking, listening, reading and writing skills in this course. If assignments and projects cannot be turned in on the due dates listed, you must talk with the teacher about an extension.

### Textbooks and Materials:

Students will use the World Atlas along with National Geographic magazines in the classroom. Web links will be provided on the class blog's Geography Page for specific lessons.

### Grading Plan:

Projects/Tests = 40%

In-class assignments = 30%

Atlas Work = 20%

Current Events = 10%



A	93-100	C	73-79
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	64-66
B-	80-82	F	Below 64
C+	77-79		

### **Course Policies:**

#### Student Work:

Students will use process skills, communication, creative thinking, problem solving, critical thinking, inquiry, conflict resolution, metacognition, research and presentations, and cooperation and social participation. Plagiarism is using other's work, ideas, or passages and representing them as your own. This unethical practice of plagiarism either on a written/oral assignment or exam will result in a failing grade for the assignment and possibly the course.

#### Portfolio:

Work from the class composition book or other handouts and assignments/projects/reports/tests can 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:

Most of the work assigned should be able to be completed in class with no outside homework unless students need to meet assignment/project deadlines.

Extra Credit: Students can bring in current events that connect to our class with a copy of the article, a student-written summary, and how it connects to geography. These need to be submitted to the teacher before the end of the term.

Absences: If you know in advance that you will be absent from class, please tell the instructor. You will have two days for each day that you miss class to turn in classwork that you missed.

Citizenship Grade: Students will be observed using their grace and courtesy on a daily basis. The timeliness and neatness of their work also is under consideration as criteria for this grade.

**Class Rules:**

Raise Your Hand to Speak

Walk to the Person to Speak to Them

Slow Deliberate Movements

Use quiet non-disruptive speech

Be Aware of What You Are Doing

**Class Materials:**

All students will need the following: one composition notebook to be kept in class, writing utensils

Donations of the following items are much appreciated:

Play-dough clay, liquid glue, colored sand, colored string/twine, colored post-it notes, any maps, any postcards

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**I have read and understand the rules for \_\_\_\_\_ class.**

**Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_**

Parent/Guardian's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ and/or \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_