**Social Studies/Geography**

7th Grade

2023-2024

Mr. Blaz

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Helena Middle School-Room 221

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**7th Grade Social Studies Year-at-a-Glance​**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Foundations of Geography | Europe | Africa | SW Asia, | ​Asia |
| Quarter 1 | Quarter 1-2 | Quarter 2-3 | Quarter 3-4 | Quarter 4 |
| Physical Geography  -Becoming a Geographer  Mapping skill/geography terms | Physical Geography  -TCI Mapping Lab | Physical Geography  -TCI Mapping Lab | Physical Geography,  -TCI Mapping Lab | Physical Geography  -TCI Mapping Lab |
| Human Geography  -History of Earth and Humans  -Cultural Elements | History  -Ancient Empires to Modern Times | History  -Colonization  -Trans Atlantic Slave  -Apartheid | History  -Fertile Crescent  9/11 Cause/Effect | History  -Dynasties of China  -Trade and Colonies  Architecture  -Great Wall  -Taj Mahal |
| Inquiry Based Learning  “Passion Project | Cultural Studies  European Union  -Pollution Cause/Effect  -Country Project | Cultural Studies  -Water Struggles  -Desertification  -Poaching | Cultural Studies  -Theocracy  -Radical Terrorism  Economy  Oil | ​Cultural Studies  -Urbanization  -Population Density  -Tsunamis |

**Work and Assignments ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­Expectations:**

Class work and assignments will be completed in class. Your child may need to take responsibility and complete work at home when needed.  **All graded assignments have a one-week grace period to be completed after the original due date.** Due dates are posted on the assignment on Power School.

**Communication**

Best option for parents: Email [– tblaz@helenaschools.org](mailto:–tblaz@helenaschools.org). (I will reply within 24 hours)

Best option for students: In person, or TEAMS Chat.

**Textbook:**

Our Textbook is TCI, Geography Alive. The Textbook is online and will be found at Clever.com. There are hard copies to check out if needed.

Students are encouraged to bring in any reading material that is relevant to worldwide studies. Newspaper and magazine articles, books, online readings, etc. that will contribute to discussion in class are welcome.

**Supplies Needed**

1. Pencil
2. Notebook
3. One – 2 pocket folder

Most importantly: ***A positive attitude and a desire to learn!***

**Course Description**

This class will be a Social Studies course on the Eastern Hemisphere of the world. We will start the year off by learning about the physical geography of the world and cultural elements. Then focus on the 5 themes of geography as it relates to Europe, Africa, Asia.

By the end of the year, students will be able to locate eastern countries on a map and name some of the key physical features on each continent. Students will be able to divide the world into many types of regions as we learn about the different cultures, government structures, spiritual beliefs and current issues. Students will be able to identify a specific place by its landforms, climate, plants, animals, people, language or culture. The impact of movement on people, goods and ideas will be studied and students will be challenged to think critically about how this impacts the world on a global level. Lastly, the interaction of the people who populate the world with the environment will be addressed. Critical reading, thinking and writing skills will be developed.

**Grading Policy**

Students will be graded on class participation, short classwork assignments, project completion, detailed written responses and quizzes. The following grading scale will be used at HMS: 100-90% = A, 89-80% = B, 79-70% = C, 69-60% = D, below 60% = F

Assignments are expected to be completed neatly and turned in on time. Assignments turned in late will receive partial credit. Assignments not turned after a one-week grace period will receive zero points. I do allow corrections on all assignments. If you are absent from a class, it is your responsibility to make up for what you missed.

**Class Expectations**

\*\*\*Be Safe\*\*\*Be Responsible\*\*\*Be Respectful\*\*\*Be a Learner\*\*\*

I am so excited about what the year ahead of us has in store. We will be traveling around the world and celebrating customs and cultures, learning world history and understanding the elements that make the earth and its people so diverse! There is so much exploration to be done. I am looking forward to making discoveries with you!

Mr. Blaz

**Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**It’s going to be a great year. I’m looking forward to traveling the world with you!!!**