

Social Studies 6 Syllabus, C.R. Anderson Middle School  
Western Hemisphere Geography, 2022-23

**Course Expectations.**

**At CRA, we are Cooperative Respectful Achievers:**

~ **Cooperative**

- Please be in your seat and ready to learn when class begins.
- We will be working with our classmates on many activities in this course. Collaborating with the teacher and your classmates is incredibly important for our collective success!

~ **Respectful**

- Treat everyone with respect.
- Work together, help one another, and help encourage learning in our room.

~ **Achievers**

- Give your best effort in class.
- Do your work on time.
- Use technology appropriately as a tool to learn, not to disrupt or distract.

**Teacher: Mr. Kelly Elder, NBCT**  
**Room 202**  
[kelder@helenaschools.org](mailto:kelder@helenaschools.org)

**Supplies (should come daily to class):**

- ~ Chromebook with Earbuds and Charger
- ~ Pencil or Pen
- ~ Wireless Mouse (optional)

**Grading: 40% Assignments, 60% Assessments.**

Welcome to Geography Class with Mr. Elder here at C.R. Anderson Middle School! I understand that many of you are a bit nervous about entering this new stage in your life and that grades are one of the biggest concerns you have. Here is what I can tell you about grading in our geography class.

We will have a number of units this year, each of which is very different, but each of which is structured in much the same way. We will have an introductory activity to get us thinking about the subject we're studying. We will learn some key vocabulary related to our topic, and will also do an activity or exercise that helps us better understand the unit's essential question. I will sometimes check or score your work in these stages of learning. These practice scores will fall under the 'Assignments' Category, and will be worth 40% of your course grade.

The final portion of each unit centers on student performance. It will be worth 60% of your course grade. For the 'Assessments' category, you will generally either complete a project to share with others or take an assessment that allows you to share what you've learned from the unit.

Grading Scale
A = 90-100%
B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%
D = 60-69%
Failing, < 60%

**What if... I am not happy with my performance on an assessment?** This can happen. If it does – you have options! Any student may decide to *redo*, *correct*, or *finish completing any practice we did in the unit* (the 'Assignments' work) on their own. Students have one week from the original assessment date to complete the retake process (which varies unit to unit) and thus improve their grade.

## Late Work Policy.

Be advised that Mr. Elder is working with over 120 students. The more work students complete and turn in *on time*, the better our year will go. I will check a number of assignments for completion and progress during the course of a unit. If you are not keeping up with classwork, history suggests you will fall behind and struggle with unit assessments!

My primary focus is on our class's current tasks and planning next steps. Late work will be accepted through the end of each unit for full credit, but it is your teacher's lowest priority. *If you turn something in late, it might be a few weeks before that work is evaluated and is updated in PowerSchool.*



Figure 1. Daily SS Lesson Overview QR Code.

## Accessing Course Materials (use QR Codes for Daily/Weekly Lesson Views).

- ❖ Going through Clever, students will be able to access any number of materials we use during the year, including: TCI (online textbook), Microsoft Teams, PowerSchool, Newsela, Edmodo, Geoguessr. Logging onto school programs through Clever will be taught the first week of school.
- ❖ Grades are on PowerSchool. Students & parents each have their own unique login.
- ❖ **Daily lessons** can be seen using either the Figure 1 QR Code or this link: <http://tiny.cc/ElderSSdaily>
- ❖ **Tentative weekly lesson plan overviews** are posted each Sunday evening – these are tentative plans. Actual progress will depend upon how each lesson goes for us in class - use either Figure 2 QR Code or this link to access: <http://tiny.cc/ElderWeekly>
- ❖ Students who are absent are encouraged to keep up with all coursework electronically. If a student misses a classroom discussion with their peers, the teacher may ask them to watch/listen to a recording and then submit their own input in an alternate format, but absent students should be able to return to class with the same knowledge and skills that students who were physically present have without much if any 'make-up work.'



Figure 2. Weekly Tentative Plan, expires 7/2024.

## Western Hemisphere Geography Unit Plan for 2022-23.

These are the topics we plan to study this year – the numbers refer to chapters/lessons within our online textbook from TCI (Teachers' Curriculum Institute).

### UNIT 1: The Foundations of Geography

- 1 – The Tools of Geography
- 2 – A Spatial Way of Thinking
- Mapping Lab: The United States and Canada

### UNIT 2: The USA and Canada

- 3 – Settlement Patterns and Ways of Life in Canada
- 4 – The Great Lakes
- 5 – Urban Sprawl
- 7 – Consumption Patterns

### UNIT 3: Latin America

- Mapping Lab – Latin America
- 9 – Spatial Inequality if Mexico City
- 12 – Land Use Conflict in the Amazon Rainforest

### UNIT 4: To Be Determined

- 6 – National Parks
- Mapping Lab: Oceania & Antarctica
- Latin American Art & Poetry Project
- Independent Study Project

***Please go over this syllabus with your parent(s)/guardian(s).***

*Ask them to add their signature to the acknowledgement slip you completed in class.*

***Return the form – signed by both you and your parent/guardian, by Friday, Sept. 2 in class.***