



**Class Syllabus**  
**Social Studies-World Geography Eastern Hemisphere**  
**Mrs. Kerr**  
**2021-2022**  
**Contact Information: email - [jkerr@basd.net](mailto:jkerr@basd.net)**  
**Phone – 355-5466 ext. 5411 (7:30 – 5:00 most days)**

**1. Class Objectives: Students will be able to...**

- A. utilize **reading strategies** to improve comprehension of the content.
- B. **locate and identify continents, oceans, countries, and other major geographical features of the world on globes and maps.**
- C. analyze how much geography affects people's lives.
- D. Describe how people first came to different regions of the eastern hemisphere and how civilizations developed to form today's societies.
- E. identify and describe regions of the Eastern Hemisphere including their history, physical and human geography, and current events.

**2. Classroom Procedures**

- A. Quietly enter the room.
- B. Take your seat, have materials out and ready to begin.
- C. Sharpen your pencil, if needed, before class begins. If you need to sharpen it during class, please do so during times when instruction is paused.
- D. Please stay in your seat during class unless class activities indicate otherwise.
- E. Try to stay on task in class. **Remember, the more we can accomplish in class, the less homework we will have!** ☺
- F. There will be a great deal of experimentation in online learning. Be patient with yourself and Mrs. Kerr. If Mrs. Kerr is having trouble with some technology and you can help, please offer! I hope we will all learn together and help each other!

**3. Teacher Expectations**

- A. Have the following with you for class **EVERYDAY**:
  - Your social studies binder with subject dividers, paper, pencil pouch, and pencils red pen, black or blue pen, colored pen **and** highlighter
  - Chromebook with **earbuds**
  - Planner
  - Learning Log (3-subject notebook)
  - Homework
- B. **GOOD MANNERS AND RESPECT FOR ALL CLASSMATES AND TEACHERS ARE EXPECTED AT ALL TIMES.** Treat others as you wish to be treated.
  - Raise your hand to ask questions and to contribute to discussions. (Enthusiasm is appreciated, but shouting out is not appropriate.)
  - Students will leave class quietly **when dismissed by the teacher.**
  - At all times, students are expected to use **appropriate, kind language** in class.
- C. **Notebook**
  - Students will keep an organized binder that will include all class materials relevant to the chapters being studied.
  - **Students should save all work until the end of each marking period.**

- When students submit work through Google Classroom, they must be sure to use the Turn In button. If you turn in work without completing it, I will return it to you with a zero until you resubmit it properly.

#### D. Work Quality

- Neatness and organization are important.
- Take pride in your work.
- Sloppy, messy, papers and handwriting that cannot easily be read will not be accepted and will have to be redone.
- **Capitalization, spelling, and punctuation matter. PLEASE do your best to use good writing skills as all times.**

#### 4. Grading - Grades will be determined on a “TOTAL Point System” and will be based on:

##### A. Quizzes, tests, and projects

- Most sections of the textbook will conclude with a short quiz
- Each chapter ends with a chapter test which will cover all sections of the chapter
- Projects are assigned throughout the year. Instructions and grading rubrics will be given for each project.

##### B. Homework :

- Homework will be given on a regular basis as per the lesson requirements.
- **All homework is expected to be completed by the assigned date. Most homework assignments are worth 4 points.**
- Homework is extremely important, but it is the attempt, rather than the result that is considered for grading purposes. **All tasks on a homework assignment should be attempted.** As long as the student shows an effort, that is acceptable. We will go over homework during class, and students should make corrections to their work at that time.
- Students will be issued **TWO “late homework” passes each marking period.** These may be turned in **one day** after the assignment was due **with the completed assignment for full credit.**

#### HOMEWORK SCORING GUIDELINES

4 = Student completed homework

3= Student completed most of the homework

2= Student completed a small portion of the homework

0 = Student did not do any of the homework

##### C. Projects:

- **Long-term projects** are a part of my social studies class and will be assigned periodically. They are to be considered as part of the homework and counted into the time allotment for social studies homework (15 min. per night). If students work a few minutes each night on a long term project, last minute cramming (five hours of work on one or two nights) will not be necessary. Long term projects also develop planning skills and discipline.
- **Projects which are not turned in on the due date will be reduced by 10% each day they are late. The 10% is subtracted from the grade the project is given.** (If I grade the project as an 80%, then 8 points are subtracted for each day it is late.)
- Students have two days to complete any missed assignments due to absence.

5. **Discipline Philosophy -**

We are a team, and the team consists of the teacher, the student, and the parents! We all have to work together to ensure that the student has a successful and enjoyable learning experience. This involves communication in all directions. For sensitive issues, I prefer to communicate via phone as emails are often misunderstood. I can be reached from 7:30 to approximately 5:00 at school, 355-5466 extension 5411. For quick questions, feel free to email me. However, please realize that I do not check my email often during the day, so I may miss something by the time I read my email.

I do my best to be fair and understanding. I attempt to deal with most discipline issues myself in the classroom in the following way. First, the child and I attempt to work out a solution. If unsuccessful, the child and I will call a parent/guardian from the classroom. If problems still persist, a parent/teacher phone call or conference is scheduled. In extreme cases an office referral is needed, but the parent will receive a call from me first.

The most common issue I encounter is failure to complete work. Every human being has a bad night from time to time. Unexpected things come up, and once in a while homework does not get completed. This is why I use the "Oops Pass". If it happens regularly, then there is a problem, and I proceed with the steps previously outlined.

I encourage parents to call me if a problem arises, and I hope students will feel able to talk to me personally if they have a concern or problem. My primary goal is for students and their parents to have a positive experience in my class. With open communication, we can accomplish that goal.

6. **SPECIAL NOTES**

- Remember – ALL YOUR TEACHERS ARE HERE TO HELP YOU!
  - If you have a question or a problem, PLEASE ASK!
  - Teachers may have eyes in the back of their heads, but unfortunately they can't read minds. I want my students to succeed. If you need something, **let me know!**
  
  - *Tis is likely to be another very different year for all of us. I would like to ask that students, parents, and teachers be patient and communicate openly and calmly. I am flexible and look forward to working with you all. If something we are doing isn't working, let's figure it out together.*
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Please sign and return the bottom portion of this syllabus:

My child, \_\_\_\_\_, and I have read and understand the  
(Print student's first and last name)  
expectations of Mrs. Kerr's Social Studies Class.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_