**7th Grade Social Studies – World Geography**

Welcome to Social Studies! Social Studies is all about people – where they live, what they do, and who they are. We'll talk about questions like: What do people around the world have in common? What are the parts of our lives that make us unique? What are some of the challenges that people around the world face, and how do they attempt to overcome them? How do we here in America impact the rest of the world, and how do people around the world make an impact on us?

Our main focus in this class will be on:

-**North America** (Canada, the United States, and Mexico)

-**South America** (including Brazil, Venezuela, Argentina, and Chile)

-**Central America and the Caribbean** (including Panama, Cuba, and Haiti)

-**The Middle East** (including Israel, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Iran)

-**South/Central Asia** (including India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan)

-**East Asia** (including China, Japan, and North and South Korea)

-**Africa** (including Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa)

We will analyze these regions by studying the **history**, **geography**, **government**, **economy**, and **culture** of these places. What does this mean?

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| History | What happened in the past, and why does it matter today? |
| Geography | Where do people live, and why? How does their land affect their lives? |
| Government | Who is in charge of a country, how did they get power, and how do they treat the people? |
| Economy | How do people make a living in a country? |
| Culture | What traditions, objects, and ideas are important to a group of people? |

We will also analyze current events, and discuss how events in America and around the world affect us. 2020 is a presidential primary election year, so we will have a lot to talk about!

**Classroom Expectations**

**1. Be prepared for class** – Bring your textbook, paper, and a writing utensil every day. When you come into class, sit in your seat, get out your homework assignment, fill out your planner, and begin your warm-up activity.

**2. Be courteous and respectful** – Treat others the way you deserve to be treated.

**3. Participate in class** – Be ready to share your ideas and be active in class.

**4. Follow the rules** – Be sure to follow school policy and in-class directions.

**5. Let me help you!** – I am here to help you in any way I can, so let me know whenever you have a question or a problem!

**Grading / Assessments**

Classwork and Homework assignments will be worth 35% of the final grade for the marking period. Quizzes and tests will be worth 65% of the final grade for the marking period. Students will be offered the opportunity to complete test corrections to earn back up to half of the points that they miss on a test.

**Make Up Work**

If you miss class due to an excused absence, you will have one day to make up missed work for each day you were absent. **It is your responsibility to ask me for any work that you missed!**

**Late Work**

Homework should be complete when you come to class the day it is due. Late homework will be worth

half-credit. Late and missing assignments will result in contact with parents/guardians, and further consequences as necessary.

**Let’s Have a Great Year!**

I hope that we can make the most out of our time together. My goal is to do everything in my power to help you to be the best student and person you can be. If there is anything I can ever do to assist you, don’t be afraid to talk to me before, during, or after class. You can also send me an e-mail at [palmiter@freeport.k12.pa.us.](mailto:palmiter@freeport.k12.pa.us.)