Overview of Course: The Grade Six Social Studies Program uses the five big ideas of social studies (government/civics, cultures and societies, economics, geography, and historical perspective) to focus on an integrated approach to the study of world geography. Concepts, skills, and content from both human and physical geography are taught. Special emphasis is placed on the five themes of geography (location, place, region, movement, and human-environment interaction) and the uses of the methods and tools of the geographer. Study revolves around the examination of various world regions and the cultures of those regions. In Grade Six Social Studies, students analyze and compare different patterns of life, including forms of government, economic systems, histories, beliefs and attitudes, arts, and recreation for cultures around the world. Instruction explores the connections between the physical environment and the patterns of life. Students make comparisons with life in Kentucky and the United States, and explore the concept of global interdependence. (JCPS Grade Six Curriculum Map).

Texts used in class:

World Geography, Holt, Rinehart Winston 2007 (See attached sheet for online textbook instructions)

Geography Alive, Teachers’ Curriculum Institute

Units of Study and Essential Questions for 6th Grade Social Studies:

- The Basics of World Geography
  - How does geography help us understand our world?
  - How do the tools of geography help us understand our world?
  - How do geographers use absolute and relative location?
  - How do the human and physical characteristics of a place help us understand our world?
  - How do humans interact with the world around them?
  - How does movement affect human population?

- How We Organize Our World
  - What is culture and how did it develop?
  - How do the elements of culture teach us about a group?
  - How do cultures change?
  - What do population patterns tell us about our world?
  - How do countries organize their government?
  - How do countries decide what to do with what they have?
  - How is the world connected?
• The Americas
  o How do humans adapt and modify the environment to meet their needs?
  o How does a democratic government organize its economy?
  o How do regional differences affect life in Canada?
  o How had history influenced the way people live today?
  o How is the culture of Mexico reflected in everyday life?
  o How does the scarcity of resources affect a country’s economy?
  o How does the geography of a region affect human activities?

• Europe
  o How does the physical environment promote or limit human activities?
  o How does the culture of the past influence life today?
  o Why is cooperation between nations important in our world today?
  o How do physical characteristics of a region create advantages and disadvantages for humans?
  o How can past conflict influence current conditions?
  o How would changes in economic systems affect growth?

• Asia
  o How does the scarcity of natural resources affect the development of regions in Asia?
  o How are Judaism, Christianity, and Islam similar and different?
  o How have human activities affected people and the environment?
  o How do religions play a key role in the daily life or India?
  o How is the culture of East Asia affected by urban growth?
  o How does cultural diffusion affect the people of Southeast Asia?

• Africa
  o How does the physical environment limit and promote human activities?
  o How are democratic principles expressed in different ways in North Africa?
  o How do cultures develop?
  o How does conflict affect a region?
  o How does colonization affect a region?
  o What was apartheid and how has South Africa changed since it ended?

• The Pacific World
  o How do distance and isolation affect a region’s connection to the rest of the world?
  o How are the cultures of Oceana similar and different?
  o How does the climate change affect the lives of people?
  o Why does Antarctica provide a unique opportunity for environmental research?
Expectations:

Students will be on time to class with all necessary materials. Each student will keep a folder in the classroom in which he/she will keep paper, assignments, and any paper materials used during class (Maps, handouts, etc...). Each student will have either a pen or a pencil along with their agenda every time he/she enters Mr. Yates’ room. All students will follow school rules at all times. These rules can be viewed in the students’ agendas.

Late or Make-Up Work:

A student returning to school after an excused absence or suspension may request make-up work within three days of his or her return to class. The student will have the number school days of absence or suspension plus one school day from the time he or she receives the make-up work to complete the work and submit it to the teacher. It is the student’s responsibility to ask for his or her make-up work.

Assignments that are completed but turned in late may accrue a penalty depending on the circumstances of the assignment. If a student is present the day an assignment is given but does not turn it in, he or she will not be given make up work. They will receive a zero for that assignment.

Throughout the grading period there will be numerous opportunities to earn bonus points on certain assignments. Extra Credit at the end of a grading period will not be given to replace lower or missing grades.

Grading Policy:

Every assignment is given a point value which in turn can be calculated into a percentage point. The type of assignment will determine how it will be weighted in the final grade.

Student Mastery:

Tests and Proficiency Assessments – 20%

Projects and Presentations – 10%

Student Progress:

Homework – 10%

Quizzes – 10%

Class Assignments – 20%
Student Engagement:

Participation – 10%

Student Reflection on Learning Targets and Agenda -15%

Sponges and Journal Writing – 5%

All percentages will be calculated using the grading scale found in the student agenda to determine the letter grade for each grading period.

93 – 100 = A
86 – 92  = B
79 – 85  = C
70 – 78  =D
0 – 69   =U

Directions for World Geography Online Textbook:

1. Go to my.hrw.com
2. Type in Username:
   meyzeek6
3. Type in Password:
   geography
4. Go to online textbook