

J. E. Cosgriff Memorial School
7th grade World Geography Disclosure Statement
Ms. Martina Gehrig
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Dear Students and Parents,

I am excited to be a part of your seventh grade school year as your world geography teacher. I received my B.S. degree from Illinois State University in 2011 with a focus in middle school language arts. This will be my seventh year teaching, as well as my fourth year at Cosgriff. In addition to seventh grade social studies, I teach eighth grade language arts, sixth grade religion, and help facilitate Youth Group.

My goal for seventh graders this year is to develop their understanding of physical and human geography. Your child will work toward establishing a foundational geographic skill set consisting of map reading, climate predictions, patterns over time, human behavior, and forming inferences about environmental problems. Students will play an active role in class discussions, group work, presentations and projects.

Seventh graders are encouraged to come to class with ongoing questions and concerns, as this helps our class grow in trust and honesty. Respect, academic integrity, and preparation are expected at all times in order to grow and maintain a comfortable learning environment. Class is held Monday- Thurs (10:45-11:35) in the eighth grade classroom and Friday (9:30-10:20) in the 8th grade classroom.

Students' grades will fall into three categories: 30% projects, 30% tests/quizzes, and 40% class work (homework, writing, participation, group work, and informal assessments)

One late homework assignment will be accepted with a 20% reduction in score until the Friday following the due date. A late homework pass was given to students the first day of school, and must be stapled to the assignment to receive partial credit. No credit will be given for any additional late assignments. Make-up work must be completed within one week of returning to school.

Please encourage your child to speak with me regarding questions or challenges in class. I look forward to the school year and supporting your child as a young adult.

Sincerely,

Ms. Martina Gehrig

Utah Core Standards of World Geography

WG Strand 1: HUMANS AND THEIR PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

WG Standard 1.1:

Students will describe the significant forces that influence the physical environment, such as plate tectonics, erosion, climate, and natural disasters, and explain how the effects of physical processes vary across regions of the world.

WG Standard 1.2:

Students will identify patterns evident in the geographic distribution of ecosystems and biomes and explain how humans interact with them.

WG Standard 1.3:

Students will cite evidence of how the distribution of natural resources affects physical and human systems.

WG Standard 1.4:

Students will use geographic reasoning to propose actions that mitigate or solve issues, such as natural disasters, pollution, climate change, and habitat loss.

WG Strand 2: POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND MIGRATION

WG Standard 2.1:

Students will evaluate the impact of population distribution patterns at various scales by analyzing and comparing demographic characteristics such as gender, age, ethnicity, and population density using maps, population pyramids, and other geographic data.

WG Standard 2.2:

Students will explain push and pull factors causing voluntary and involuntary migration and the consequences created by the movement of people.

WG Standard 2.3:

Students will investigate the effects of significant patterns of human movement that shape urban and rural environments over time, such as mass urbanization, immigration, and the movement of refugees.

WG Strand 3: CULTURE

WG Standard 3.1:

Students will identify and describe the essential defining characteristics and functions of culture.

WG Standard 3.2:

Students will explain how the physical environment influences and is influenced by culture.

WG Standard 3.3:

Students will identify how culture influences sense of place, point of view and perspective, and the relative value placed upon people and places.

WG Standard 3.4:

Students will identify the causes, methods, and effects for the diffusion and distribution of cultural characteristics among different places and regions.

WG Standard 3.5:

Students will explain how the basic tenets of world religions affect the daily lives of people.

WG Standard 3.6:

Students will cite examples of how globalization creates challenges and opportunities for different cultures.

WG Standard 3.7:

Students will demonstrate an understanding of their own culture's connection to geography.

WG Strand 4: POLITICAL SYSTEMS

WG Standard 4.1:

Students will explain why and how people organize into a range of political structures at different scales.

WG Standard 4.2:

Students will describe and explain the role physical and human characteristics play in establishing political boundaries.

WG Standard 4.3:

Students will explain how cooperation and conflict have many causes, such as differing ideas regarding boundaries, resource control, and land use, as well as ethnic, tribal, and national identities.

WG Strand 5: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WG Standard 5.1:

Students will explain the essential attributes of a developed economy and the patterns of development that differentiate less-developed from more-developed places.

WG Standard 5.2:

Students will describe and compare the function and distribution of economic activities in primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors.

WG Standard 5.3:

Students will explain key economic concepts and their implications for the production, exchange, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.

WG Standard 5.4:

Students will cite examples of various levels of economic interdependence between nations and peoples.

WG Standard 5.5:

Students will describe the costs, benefits, and sustainability of development in terms of poverty rates, standards of living, the impact on indigenous people, environmental changes, gender equality, and access to education