

**7th Grade Civics/Geography
Syllabus
Calera Middle School
2014-2015**

Instructor: Chris Marsh

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Text: Geography - *The World and Its People* (1st Nine Weeks)
- *World Geography* (new textbook arriving in October)
Civics - *Civics Today* (1st Nine Weeks)
- *Civics in Practice* (new textbook arriving in October)

Standards:

This course is standards based. The following standards were used to prepare this course.

- The Shelby County Curriculum Map for 7th Grade Civics & Geography
- The Alabama Course of Study
- The SAT-10 Compendium
- The National Council for the Social Studies Ten Thematic Strands

Course description:

Welcome to 7th Grade Civics/Geography. The curriculum for 7th Grade Social Studies is divided into two semester courses; one semester of Geography and one of Civics (also called Citizenship). In these one semester courses students will develop the skills to become active and engaged citizens as well as increase their knowledge and understanding about the physical nature of the world and the relationship between people and their environments. Civics will focus on the foundation and structure of the American government; and Geography will focus on the physical and cultural geography of the Eastern Hemisphere.

Expectations:

You will be expected to come to class prepared. Assignments should be turned in on time; late assignments will receive partial credit (see EAET/Make-up Rules). Respect yourself and others at all times. Discipline will be handled in accordance with the Shelby County Code of Conduct.

What to bring to class:

You will need to bring the following items to class **every day:**

- Textbook
- Pencil
- Paper
- A positive attitude!

Daily Work:

The following are examples of the types of assignments you can expect in geography. Reading is an essential component of any social studies course. Be prepared to read. Daily quizzes will assess reading comprehension. Review questions will reinforce learned concepts. Class activities (ex. map activities) will aid lesson comprehension. Homework will reinforce daily objectives.

Assessments:

Assessments are conducted through a variety of methods. Quizzes check reading comprehension. Standardized tests assess mastery of unit/chapter objectives. Vocabulary quizzes assess mastery of content terminology. One nine weeks assessment will evaluate overall mastery of objectives for the grading period.

Grading system:

The grading system is points based. Each assignment receives a point value based on the type of assignment. Daily grades such as class work and homework are valued between 10 - 40 points, quizzes 20 - 40 points, and Chapter/Unit/Benchmark (9 weeks) Tests 100 points.

The nine weeks average is determined by dividing the points earned by the points possible. Example: If your child earns 850 points out of 1000 points possible, his/her nine weeks average will be 85.

Make-up Rules:

Full-credit:

Students have **three** (3) days per excused absence to arrange with Coach Marsh to make-up work for full credit. It is the **STUDENT'S** responsibility to ask for make-up work. (Shelby County Code of Conduct; Regulations Governing Attendance - D, 1)

Tests: (all tests full-credit)

Tests can be made up during Lunch/Intervention (5th Period). Check with Coach Marsh for scheduling. You **must** confirm with Coach Marsh on the **DAY** you are making up a test.

Missing Assignments:

Missing and late assignments will be subject to the **Every Assignment Every Time** guidelines.

Extra Credit:

Extra credit assignments will NOT be available for this course.

Grade Distribution:

Nine Weeks Grade

50% Assessment (approximately)

50% Daily Work (approximately)

Yearly Grade

Average of all 4 nine weeks (1st + 2nd + 3rd + 4th /4)

Class Rules:

1. Be on time
2. Be prepared -Bring all class materials, book, paper, pencil, **every day!**
3. Sit in your desk properly
4. **No** Chewing Gum, Food, or Drink!
5. Respect yourself and others

Quotes on Citizenship:

"And so my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

-John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the United States

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

- Ronald Reagan, 40th President of the United States

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

- Mohandas Gandhi, Indian nonviolent civil rights leader

"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."

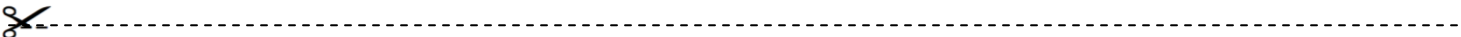
- Martin Luther King Jr., American civil rights leader

"We need to restore the meaning of that old word, duty. It is the other side of rights."

- Pearl S. Buck, American author

"Citizenship is what makes a republic; monarchies can get along without it."

-Mark Twain, American author, humorist



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My signature below indicates I have reviewed all of the information set forth in the syllabus.

Print Student's Name

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Student Signature Date