

# Welcome to Mr. Kyle's World Geography!

Dear Parents:

August 21, 2012

It is my pleasure to welcome you and your student to my 7<sup>th</sup> grade Geography class. As citizens of our increasingly global society, few things could be more important than a better understanding of the world in which we live. The Middle School Social Studies curriculum strives to better that understanding for students in many ways.

The World Geography class focuses primarily on the Eastern hemisphere. The various units studied in class will explore the themes of geography and apply them to various regions and cultures throughout the world. Students in my class will be exposed to current events, demographic information, stories, class discussions and images to help gain deeper knowledge into selected topics. They will also write summaries of topics and present information to their classmates. Reading, thinking, and writing will be done daily.

## What is the ONE SIMPLE THING I can do as a parent to know what my child is doing every day in Geography?

The most useful tool that you as a parent can utilize to keep informed of your child's daily Geography class activities, assignments and upcoming due dates is my class website. I update this website regularly. I also include downloadable PDF files of all class handouts just in case items happen to be lost or misplaced! This is also a great resource to keep your child up to speed if they happen to be absent. You can access my website by following the links on the Pau-Wa-Lu homepage ( [schools.dscd.k12.nv.us/pwl/](http://schools.dscd.k12.nv.us/pwl/) ). From the PWL homepage go to the "staff" dropdown menu on the left and then select "teacher websites". You'll find mine listed by Kyle, Jason.

Another option is to bookmark my site directly at [mrkylesclass.weebly.com](http://mrkylesclass.weebly.com). I'm confident that you find my site to be very informative and useful in keeping tabs of your child's time in my class.

## What to expect from the class - Grading and Student Effort

Students will need to organize their Geography class work within a binder or folder dedicated to the class. Also, a set of colored pencils will be useful throughout the year. Each class will begin with students answering both their **Geography warm up notes/question** and writing the definition to the **daily vocabulary word**. This daily routine contains essential information and vocabulary for each unit. If students complete this daily activity, they will constantly be reviewing important topics and learning the language associated with their study of history. As a result, they will better understand daily lessons and be more successful on assignments and assessments. These daily notes should be kept at the front of their Geography binder/folder where your student can easily add new information each day. These notes will be useful for all assessments. Effort and organization are the keys to success. An active learner is never bored! Students will get out of my class what they put into it in terms of energy, enthusiasm and engagement.



Secondly, **class work** is a crucial part of the class. Class assignments are a useful way for students to practice skills and more thoroughly engage the curriculum in a meaningful manner. On occasion, class work will be due at the end of class. Sometimes students will need more time to finish their work. Although students will not be given homework on a nightly basis, there will be times when they will need to finish their class work at home and will therefore have "homework".

Third, students will complete various **projects**, either individually or as a group, to creatively explore a particular topic and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the subject. Students will always have time in class to organize tasks and work on their projects prior to the due date, but these assignments will require some additional time outside of class.

Fourth, a **participation** grade is given based on the results of an academic game called TRAP. TRAP is a competitive in-class game that is played to check the students' attentiveness, knowledge and understanding of topics covered in class. The students will change seats based on their answers to review questions given throughout the quarter. Correct answers move forward while incorrect answers move back. At the end of the quarter the student's final TRAP seat is converted to a grade for class participation.

Lastly, **quizzes** are given roughly every two to three weeks. Quizzes are given during the unit and **tests** are given at the end of the unit. The daily vocabulary words and warm up questions from the start of each class form the core questions on all exams and should be studied and reviewed prior to all quizzes and tests. *Success favors the prepared mind!*

Final Semester grades are weighted. Each category makes up a different percentage, or "weight", of the overall grade and are calculated as follows:

**Tests 35%, Quizzes 25%, Class work 20%, Projects 15%, Participation/TRAP 5%**

### Parents and Teachers: Partners in Education

Both parents and teachers want their students to succeed. You can help your child be successful by being involved in their education. Please utilize my webpage and monitor your child's grades, attendance and progress on a regular basis. Class grades will be updated regularly on Powerschool.

In conclusion, I look forward to a very rewarding, productive and FUN year working your student. If you have any interesting travel or world culture related stories or artifacts that you would like to share with the class, or should you have questions or concerns as the year progresses, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached by email at [jkyle@dcsd.k12.nv.us](mailto:jkyle@dcsd.k12.nv.us).

Sincerely,

Jason Kyle

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**\*\*Cut off and Return Signed to Mr. Kyle ASAP (Due: Friday 8/28/12)\*\***

I have read and understand the letter explaining Mr. Kyle's expectations for Geography class.

STUDENT NAME (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

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Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

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Parent Email

Phone