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**Sixth Grade Social Studies
Geography and Ancient Civilizations
2011-2012**

Curriculum Content

Using the *Human Heritage* book and a variety of supplemental materials, we will study multiple aspects of geography as well as ancient history from prehistory to the Rome Empire. For each ancient culture that we study we will focus on:

- geography
- history
- politics
- economics
- society
- contributions

A social studies Classroom-Based Assessment (CBA) is required by the state, which we will work on together. Students will develop research skills as they work on their CBA:

- pick a topic
- gather information/take notes
- prepare a bibliography
- analyze information
- synthesize and organize information
- present/publish findings

Expectations

- Make good decisions.
- Solve problems.
- Show respect.

Students need to bring their planner to class every day as well as paper, pencils and pens.

I don't plan to have homework in this class. The exception would be that students should study before a test.

Other Procedures

You can get a drink or sharpen a pencil at any time, as long as you don't interrupt instruction or disturb others. You may have bottled water (plain ordinary water) in a small container that closes securely.

We don't allow you to chew gum in class.

Please use your passing times to use the rest room. If you have an *emergency*, let me know. To leave the classroom, you will need to use your personal pass which you keep in your planner.

If you forget your materials, see if you can borrow from a friend before class begins. If you need to borrow a pen or pencil from me, you need to put one of your shoes by the container until you return the item.

Grading and Communication with Parents

There will be classroom assignments, tests, and the CBA work.

Students are expected to participate cooperatively in discussions and group activities.

Test scores are weighted so that they count more heavily toward final grades than classroom assignments.

CBAs—which are long-term projects—will also be weighted more heavily.

Students will carry home mid-quarter progress reports. We mail home quarter and semester grades.

Parents, feel free to contact me by phone or email with any questions. Your child is welcome to call me at home in the evening (before 9 pm) with a question: 206.842.5761.

Please email me at school at by October 14 to let me know you received and read this!