



Dear Students:

Welcome to World Geography! In this class, we learn how to use Geography as a tool to better understand the world we live in. This semester you will explore your natural surroundings and investigate the impact of people on the physical and cultural earth. In addition to basic geography skills, you will investigate the forces that shape our world through the latest technology and active fieldwork while surveying the world's cultural regions.

By the time you leave the class, here are the most important things you should know and be able to do:

- You will learn and use the tools of Geography including: reading and creating maps, the 5 Themes of Geography, research skills, etc.
- You will learn how physical geography such as climate, vegetation, landforms and resources impact human activity.
- You will identify basic physical and political locations while learning about different cultural regions.
- You will identify the world's major regions, and learn the similarities and differences within and between regions.
- You will learn about the many cultures of the world, and understand the way people live, including population, migration, government systems, religions and history.

We know that as you master these skills you will be able to better understand the people and events around you and make informed decisions about the future.

Sincerely,

Doug Andersen

Chelsey Collins

P.S. To help you be successful, World Geography teachers have some suggestions and rewards. Please turn this page over to find out more.



# ZERO TOLERANCE FOR ZEROS

A Pattern for Success in World Geography and Beyond



Dear Students and Parents:

We have observed that the two main causes of failure in 9<sup>th</sup> grade students are (1) excessive absences or falling behind because of absences, and (2) not completing assigned work on time. Part of the reason why students do not complete assigned work on time or fall behind may be adjusting to the A/B schedule. Some students fail to appropriately schedule study time, thinking they have an “extra day” for homework, and then forget. Absent students must realize that when they miss a class period, they are really missing **two** days of instruction. In order to keep caught up with the class, they must complete the content and homework from the class they missed **and** work from the current class.

To help 9<sup>th</sup> grade World Geography students keep up on their work, turn in their work on time, and to make up absent work quickly, we have developed a “**Zero Tolerance for Zeros**” policy. Our expectation is that our students will complete and turn in assignments on time and that absent students will find out what they missed and quickly make up the work. For students who do not have all of their work completed and submitted, or for students who need extra help in World Geography, we encourage students to use eTime— *even if they have a passing grade*.

## EXPECTATIONS:

- ☞ Students may come in any day before or after school to do class work or to get help.
- ☞ Each Friday after school, World Geography teachers will print out a “missing assignments” list by period and student ID number. The list will be posted on the wall for students to check Monday and Tuesday. Students can be crossed off the list by submitting **completed** missing assignments. Students not on the Friday list will be given a raffle ticket for prizes.
- ☞ When a student is absent, they should come in immediately to find out what they missed—*they do not have to wait until eTime*.
- ☞ If students are missing a test or quiz that will take longer than 20 minutes to complete, there will not be enough time during eTime to finish it. They will need to come in before or after school within one week of the test to make it up.

We feel that the “Zero Tolerance for Zeros” policy will help create more responsible and self-motivated students and help students and parents keep track of assignments.

Sincerely,

World Geography Teachers