Mr. Seelhoff’s 7th Grade Individuals in Societies

World History and Geography

Hello, and welcome to our 7th Grade Individuals in Societies class. Throughout the year, we will undertake a study of world history, as well as continuing to build on the information from 6th grade’s geography units.

The six major units of study are:

1. *Where in the World?*—This unit focuses on reviewing and adding to student understanding of geography
2. *Mesopotamia, Egypt, and early civilizations—*Our second unit will focus on the earliest human civilizations, why they came into existence, what they had in common, and what was different about them.
3. *China*—For this unit, we will focus on ancient and modern China. This cross-curricular unit will also incorporate information from students’ Language and Literature class.
4. *It’s All Greek to Me—*Our largest unit of the year, we will focus on classical western civilizations, Greece and Rome, as well as their contemporary civilizations in Africa and the Middle East, and their impact on the world.
5. *Europe and Africa—*Students will explore the changing nature of the relationships between Africa, Europe, and the world since the fall of Rome.
6. *Patterns of Interaction—*Our last unit has students study the relationships and interactions between different parts of the world in order to better understand their own place in the world.

**Expectations:** Expectations within the classroom fall under the larger umbrella of Parkside’s three core expectations:

-Be Respectful -Be Responsible -Be Your Best

Students will have a voice in building our classroom norms throughout the opening days of school, and I will send home a copy of our classroom expectations to look over with your student and sign at the conclusion of next week.

**Grading:** Grading at Parkside is now done in accordance with the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program standards. This grading is criterion based, with major assessments graded on a scale from 1-8, with each point representing an increasing level of mastery in both the IB criterion and the course curriculum.

Student grades can be viewed using PowerSchool, which is accessible through the JPS home page at www.jpsk12.org

More information on Parkside’s assessment policies can be found at the following website: <http://tinyurl.com/MSPAssessment>

**Accommodations:** All accommodations for any student with an IEP or 504 plan will be met as is required by law. If you have any questions regarding accommodations please make contact as soon as possible.

**Contact Information**: Mr. Seelhoff will post the classes’ activities for the week, as well as assignments for students and important documents for parents/guardians online at <http://seelhoffparkside.weebly.com>

If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact Mr. Seelhoff by email at james.seelhoff@jpsk12.org or by phone at 517-841-2362.

The reverse side of this syllabus has instructions on how to sign up for Remind, a program to receive information on the class. Parents/guardians are also encouraged to use the JPS app for additional information.