

# Welcome to Honors World Geography!

**Teacher:** Davis, Lechlitrner, Yoder  
**Classes:** 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th  
**Email:** [lechlim@hpsd.org](mailto:lechlim@hpsd.org)  
**Tutoring Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday:  
Morning (Lechlitrner, Yoder) 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.  
Afternoon (Davis) 3:35 p.m. - 4:05 p.m.

**\*Coach Yoder (WC204) will have tutoring in his room the day of the test on all tests)\***

## Conference Information:



Welcome to Honors World Geography! We are looking forward to a productive and exciting year. Honors courses challenge and enrich college-bound students to expand their education beyond the typical program. Honors coursework develops advanced skills and content background to prepare students for college level work in Advanced Placement classes. Success in the Honors course requires student commitment to the expectations of the program. At Highland Park High School we are committed to providing the best possible education for each child, and our efforts are reflected in our students' success. The following information is a list of expectations and course requirements.

## INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

Goals are based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Below is the TEA website for parents and students.

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter113/ch113c.html>

In addition, these are some areas that we will focus on this year:

- Increase knowledge of advanced geography skills, and better understand the relationship between people and the earth.
- Analyze, synthesize, and manipulate knowledge and skills related to geographic concepts.
- Organize and use information acquired from a variety of sources, including electronic technology.
- Increase content area vocabulary.
- Identify and evaluate different economic and political systems.
- Identify the contributions of many cultural groups.
- Identify social, cultural, and psychological factors that influence human behavior.
- Increase knowledge of personal, social, and civic responsibilities.
- Foster a love for life-long learning.
- Budget time effectively and efficiently.
- Develop successful study skills.
- Commit to a daily academic action plan.

## OVERVIEW

Our activities utilize a wide range of instructional strategies. Geography is no longer just a memorization of "states and capitals;" today's geography students focus on current world issues and develop problem-solving strategies. They explore our world by collecting, organizing, and analyzing data from a wide variety of traditional and electronic sources. Students make predictions, test their generalizations, and present their findings. Knowledge and skills are reinforced through a variety of oral and silent reading, hands-on activities, and research assignments. Students will work both individually and in a variety of groupings. Although there is not a ninth grade STAAR/EOC test for World Geography, these concepts are tested on both the tenth grade AP World History and the eleventh grade STAAR/EOC social studies tests, and students are accountable for this information in order to meet state graduation requirements. Additionally, students will take tests and quizzes to monitor areas of strength and weakness.

## SPECIFIC EXPECTATIONS

Reading assignments are ongoing, and are completed outside of class time. Readings consist of traditional text, current events articles, primary resources, and excerpts from fiction. Students are expected to write in a variety of ways. Homework assignments are regularly assigned, and late work is penalized. Students will be given ample time during class, but are required to finish long-term assignments if they do not use their class time efficiently. Projects (if we utilize one) count as test grades and must also be turned in on time.

Report cards are issued each nine weeks. Grades are a combination of daily class assignments, homework, quizzes, projects, and tests. Tutoring is offered (see QR code above), and students are encouraged to attend.

**As students are being held accountable to an Honors standard, grades may not be as high as students are accustomed to earning.**

However, increased competence in problem solving and the exposure to higher levels of critical thinking, adds a layer of confidence and pride to the learning process. Parents have the opportunity to monitor their child's grades via Skyward.

Regular class attendance and having the necessary supplies, including an organized "Digital" binder and regular binder are keys to success. However, the most important thing to bring to class is a **personal computer**, a positive attitude and an appreciation for learning. In order for each child to be successful, we must work together. I encourage you to talk with your child about the class and what they are learning. Classroom discipline reflects the procedures of Highland Park High School. Students are accountable for their behavior, and all rules are enforced. Students have a complete listing of all policies in their student handbook. No student is permitted to interfere with the learning environment of the classroom.

Make-up work is the student's responsibility. Work should be picked up the day you return to school (if not before...use Google Classroom). Late work may be accepted until the **end of the unit** for partial credit.

#### **Grading:**

- 60% Major grades (tests, formal essays, projects, presentations)
  - o You need to be ready to take the test **on the test day** – testing days will be clearly communicated to students with ample time...**make preparations accordingly.**
- 40% Minor Grades (homework, daily work, participation and "Quizzes").
- Be prepared for 10+ grades per nine weeks (2-3 major, 4-6 Quizzes, 7-9 daily grades)

#### **Testing Format:**

You will take two/three tests per grading period. Each test covers a specific unit, and most units consist of content and concepts within our area of focus, or region. For each assessment, you have two opportunities to test: once individually and once within a group. As for the new state law, Students will not be allowed the use of phones, smart watches, or any other permitted communication devices stated in the handbook. We will discuss this in more detail after the first test.

#### **If you are absent for a test:**

1. You need to make-up the test within a reasonable time.
2. If you miss the group re-teaching opportunity, we will either
  - a. try to group you with other students who were absent, or
  - b. give you the opportunity to take the test again (however, individually), but with the use of notes
3. if, after the individual and group tests, a student's grade is still below passing, that student will have an opportunity to retake for up to a 70.

#### **Test Reviews:**

**Students will NOT be given a written test review.** Instead, unit plans and a **unit overview** will be provided at the beginning of each unit. Students will also be given the opportunity to collaborate and review content taught during the previous weeks and create their own test review based on what was learned. Student generated work will be used for test preparation. Additional test preparation will be provided in the morning or afternoon prior to test day. Students are encouraged to keep up with class notes and class readings so that this collaboration time is utilized well.

#### **Plagiarism:**

Please read this statement carefully:

Plagiarism is defined as the use, without giving reasonable and appropriate credit to or acknowledging the author or source, of another person's original work, whether such work is made up of code, formulas, ideas, language, research, strategies, writing or other form(s). We will discuss at length the correct way use of AI in classrooms and other sources so plagiarism is deterred.

#### **Tardies:**

According to the school's policy, 3 tardies = 1 unexcused absence.

#### **Absences and late work policy:**

- See the *Kiltie* for school policy on absences and make-up work.
- Work is considered late if it's turned in after I collect it.

#### **Specific Rules:**

- 1) Respect each other and the places and cultures we study
- 2) Leave the classroom better than you found it
- 3) Try your best, trust the learning process