**7th Grade Geography, World History 600-1450 CE, & Washington State History—St. John School 2015-2016**

Teacher: Mr. Thomas

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Website: From the St. John School website, go to Parents, Teacher Pages, and then Mr. Joseph Thomas

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**About the Course**

The study of geography, world civilizations, and Washington State history and government are designed to help prepare students to become responsible citizens. This course is structured to evaluate important events and influential ideas through the integration of geography, civics, economics, current events, and decision-making skills. We will cover basic geography skills, world historical events from 600 to 1450 CE, and events in the Pacific Northwest from the mid-19th century through the present day. We will accomplish this through use of the textbooks, supplemental reading, and audio/visual materials.

**About the Books**

*World Geography*, published by Glencoe. (ISBN: 0-07-860699-3)

*The Washington Journey*, published by Gibbs Smith. (ISBN: 13-978-1-4236-0622-2)

*World Explorer: Medieval Times to Today* published by Prentice Hall. (ISBN: 0-13-050232-4))

**General Information**

* I will work with you to make it possible for you to do your best. I will treat you fairly and with the respect that you earn. I will be honest with you. Please keep in mind that I want to help you in any way that I can so that you can be successful. If you have special circumstances that are making it difficult for you to do your best, please let me know.
* **Classroom Expectations:** In addition to the St. John school rules, the following will be expected in my classes to help create a positive learning environment in which all students can be successful.
	+ **Be safe:** Come to class on time without rushing to the doorway. Use materials appropriately. (Avoid damaging school or personal property.)
	+ **Be respectful:** Respect yourself and others! Use positive and appropriate language (refrain from name calling and avoid swearing/using offensive language). Focus on the teacher/speaker (listen, follow directions, and avoid interrupting others.) Remain seated until you are dismissed.
	+ **Be Responsible:** Take responsibility for your choices! Your grades and your behavior are YOUR responsibility. When you know you’ve been caught messing around in class, CHOOSE to avoid making the problem worse by lying about it or being more disruptive. CHOOSE to bring your materials and use class time wisely. CHOOSE to do your BEST on your work and turn it in on time so that you will be satisfied with the grades you earn. CHOOSE to study for assessments so that you will be as prepared as possible.
* **Behavior:** Disruptive, disrespectful, or inappropriate behavior will be handled accordingly. Consequences range from a verbal warning to a detention or a referral. I reserve the right to conference with a parent, or administrator. Remember: Negative choices will lead to negative consequences. Positive choices will result in positive outcomes.
* **Passes/Bathroom Use:** Please try to use passes for emergencies only, not as a clever excuse to get out of class.
* **Materials:** Becoming and staying organized is extremely important to your success as a student. You need to bring all necessary materials to class daily, before the class begins. Books and notebooks will be kept in at school but students may always sign out a book to take home to study.
* **Retakes:** Students may attempt a major assessment a second time if they meet the requirements of the “Request to Retest” form including a parent signature. Smaller assessments like weekly Greek and Latin roots quizzes are not eligible for retakes.
* **Absent Work:** When you are absent it is your responsibility to check with classmates and PowerSchool and to make up any missing assignments. If you need copies of a handout you need to write down the handout(s) you need and give the list to me. I will provide you with copies as soon as possible. Assignments missing for more than 2 weeks will receive a grade of zero.
	+ If you are absent for an extended period of time, see me to work out an individual plan for make-up work.
* **Cheating/Plagiarism:** Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade on the assignment, and a detention. You will also be asked to notify your parents. This includes copying homework, classwork, test answers, talking during a test or quiz, allowing someone to copy your work, and trying to pass off someone else’s work as your own. If you feel the need to cheat, speak with me about getting help with the material.

Geography, World History, & Washington State History Commitment

I have received and read a copy of Mr. Thomas’s Washington State and World History course requirements. I agree to follow the classroom rules and procedures, which follow the St. John School guidelines of safety, respect, and responsibility, and I understand the consequences should I choose not to follow these rules.

I understand that I need to stay organized. I need to bring a writing utensil, binder, and all other necessary materials to class each day.

I understand that active participation and organization are essential to my success. This means I will pay attention in class and ask questions when I am confused or need help, complete all of my assignments on time, participate actively in all class activities, and take the time to study effectively for tests.

I must turn in this commitment by Friday, September 4th for 10 points.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_