

7th Grade Geography Exploratory Syllabus—Mr. Kelly

Course Description: In this course students will explore the five themes of geography: Location & Map Skills; Place & Physical Geography; Movement of People, Goods, & Ideas; Human-Environment Interactions; Region & World Cultures

Materials: *Three-ring binder, and notebook required!* Textbook, Tablet, Pencil, & Smile ☺

Assignments: Students are expected to complete all tasks assigned and meet given deadlines. All students are expected to complete assignments at a level that would be considered acceptable in a professional work environment. Students must keep all materials for this class neatly organized in their binders and bring their binders to each class.

Class Website: <http://mrkellyshistory.weebly.com/>

Mr. Kelly posts what is assigned, covered, and due in class on a weekly basis. He makes all materials used in class available on his page. Visit his class website to check for upcoming deadlines or to collect makeup work. Also find helpful links and online resources.

Contact Mr. Kelly: brad.kelly@rocketsk12.org

Mr. Kelly wants to be a resource for both students and parents. Please contact him with any questions or concerns. He will be available before and after school. He will also be available via email.

Late Work: Late work will be accepted for one week after the due date. All late work will receive reduced credit. Students will be referred to Success Center until work is completed.

Retests:

- Students must give “effort” to request a retest.
- Students must retest by the next Success Center (usually one week).
- Before a retest, Mr. Kelly requires additional learning activities to demonstrate preparation.
- The higher of the two scores will be recorded after the student has retested, unless the score is below “50”. If a student has shown effort and still receives a poor score, a score of “50” will be recorded in the grade book.

Absences: Work missed due to truancy will receive a zero. In the event of an excused absence, a student has two days for every day missed to makeup the work. Special arrangements should be made with Mr. Kelly if a student misses more than a week.

Grading Policy: Formative Assessments 20% (Unit Packets, Homework, Class Activities). Summative Assessments 65% (Papers, Quizzes, Tests, and Projects). Cumulative Final Exam 15%. Participation points will be awarded weekly based on a student’s active participation, positive contribution, responsible conduct, preparedness, and promptness to class.

Grading Scale: A 90-100, B 80-89, C 70-79, D 60-69, F 0-59

Academic Honesty: Mr. Kelly holds his students to high standards of integrity and honesty.

- **Cheating:** Cheating is very serious choice. Students caught cheating will receive a zero, a detention, and a call home.
- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is taking credit for someone else’s work, or not giving credit where credit is due. Plagiarism is cheating, so the same rules apply.

Mr. Kelly's Expectations for Success

- **Expect to learn; Expect to laugh:** Let's work together to make this class fun, interesting, and engaging.
- **Respect Yourself:** Always do your best. Always give it a try. Let your classmates and I help you when you need it. Don't put yourself down.
- **Respect Your Classmates:** Give respect to get respect. Treat others with the same respect you expect from them. Absolutely no bullying.
- **Respect Your Teacher:** Come to class on-time and prepared. Participate. Give it what you've got. Meet deadlines. Talk when it's your turn to talk. Listen when it's your turn to listen. Ask me for help. I set my expectations for my students high. As long as I know you are making a sincere and responsible attempt to meet my expectations, I will meet you halfway.
- **Respect the Property of Others:** If it is not yours, ask for permission to use it. Handle it with care. Return it promptly to where it was. This includes the personal belongings of your fellow students. This also includes the objects and spaces within my classroom.
- **Appropriate language:** Students must use words that build up, not words that tear down. No bullying, put-downs, harassment, racial remarks, or language that is offensive or degrading.
- **Demonstrate Responsibility for Your Actions**
 - "Fire to shed light, not fire to burn" _____
 - "Don't give away your personal power lightly" _____
- **Mr. Kelly Dismisses the Class, the Bell Doesn't:** If all students participate and work well during class, I like to give a few moments at the end of class for students to gather their things and prepare to pass. However, if I am still trying to explain something, students must wait to be dismissed.
- **Cell Phones:** If I see your cell phone, it's mine. 1st offense: See me at the end of the day. Subsequent offenses: I will turn it into the office at after my last period and you or a parent may pick it up there.
- **Passes:** If you need a pass, please wait to ask until a break in the lesson. Passes are privilege: abuse it and lose it. One person to the bathroom at a time.
- **All other rules in your student handbook apply.**

I have carefully reviewed all of the attached information and clearly understand the expectations for this course. I have also discussed these guidelines with my parent(s)/guardian(s). I accept my responsibilities to follow the classroom and course expectations and to make a full effort toward achievement, while successfully completing this course.

Print Student Name

Student Sign & Date

Parent/Guardian Sign

Date