

**Tokyo International Progressive School**  
**Grade 8, Social Studies Course Outline**  
**2023-2024**

**Mr. Jessen-Petersen, Room 24**



"Culture is a way of coping with the world by defining it in detail." -  
Malcolm Bradbury

## DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

Grade 8 Social Studies Topics Include:

"Africa South of the Sahara" Physical features, climate regions, history and governments, cultures and lifestyles

"South Asia" Physical features, climate regions, history and governments, cultures and lifestyles

"East Asia and Southeast Asia" Physical features, climate regions, history and governments, cultures and lifestyles

"Australia, Oceania, and Antarctica" Physical features, climate regions, history and governments, cultures and lifestyles

Along with learning different content and concepts, students will learn different reading skills, including: Identifying cause and effect, paraphrasing, identifying problems and solutions, and monitoring and clarifying while reading. Students will also improve their ability to understand and analyze different types of maps, and transfer this understanding to value how maps and borders explain current issues.

Textbooks Used:

"Exploring Our World: People, Places, and Cultures"

## STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- Students are expected to bring the following materials to class each day:
- Water bottle
- Charged laptop or tablet
- Headphones
- Any materials for accommodations (e.g. noise-canceling earbuds)
- Work due
- Textbook if brought home (Textbooks will remain in class unless student requests to bring it home) (Materials will always be posted online, including pictures of text from

the textbook, so students will typically not need to bring the textbooks home)

- Book being currently read

\*A numbered copy of a textbook and book will be lent to you. Write your name in it. When you return it, if it is not in usable condition or missing its cover, your family will be asked to replace the book.

- Students are allowed to drink closed drink bottles in the classroom. Water and sports drinks are preferred. Cans are not allowed in the classroom. Food is also not allowed in the classroom.
- Students will be allowed to listen to music in class for certain activities with the teacher's permission. Music must be played from a playlist, and the songs must be free of lyrics (no lyrics music)
- If a student is unable to complete work by the expected due date, the grade will be a 0 on Quickschools until the work is completed. The student and the teacher will set a new due date together. If the assignment is not completed by the new due date, the grade will remain a 0 in Quickschools and will not be able to be changed.
- If a student will require a re-do on their test, please talk with the teacher.
- When in use, laptops will remain on the desk.

## EARNING YOUR GRADE

Your grade will be determined by your work in these categories:

| Grade Category | Percentage of your grade |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| 6P             | 10%                      |
| Quiz           | 20%                      |
| Daily Work     | 25%                      |
| Project        | 25%                      |
| Test           | 20%                      |

The grading scale for this course will be:

| Letter Grade | Mark Range  | Grade Points |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| A+           | 98-100      | 4.0          |
| A            | 93-97       | 4.0          |
| B+           | 90-92       | 3.5          |
| B            | 85-89       | 3.0          |
| C+           | 82-84       | 2.5          |
| C            | 77-81       | 2.0          |
| D+           | 74-76       | 1.5          |
| D            | 70-73       | 1.0          |
| F            | 69 or below | 0.0          |

## IMPORTANT DATES

**\* Schedule is subject to change**

| Assessment  | Date                     |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| U7C19 Test  | Thursday, September 14th |
| U720 Test   | Thursday, October 5th    |
| U7C21 Test  | Monday, October 23rd     |
| U7 Project  | Tuesday, October 31st    |
| U8C22 Test  | Thursday, November 16th  |
| U8C23 Test  | Thursday, November 30th  |
| U8C24 Test  | Thursday, December 14th  |
| U8 Project  | Tuesday, January 16th    |
| U9C25 Test  | Thursday, February 15th  |
| U9C26 Test  | Thursday, February 29th  |
| U9C27 Test  | Thursday, March 28th     |
| U9 Project  | Thursday, April 4th      |
| U10C28 Test | Thursday, April 25th     |
| U10C29 Test | Thursday, May 9th        |

|             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| U10C30 Test | Thursday, May 23rd |
| U10 Project | Thursday, June 6th |