**Social Studies**

**Sixth Grade**

**Ms. Gaitor**

**Course Syllabus 2025 – 2026**

**Course Description and Objectives**

Latin America, the Caribbean and Canada, Europe, and Australia Sixth grade is the first year of a two-year World Area Studies course. Sixth grade students study Latin America, Canada, Europe, and Australia. The goal of this two-year course is to acquaint middle school students with the world in which they live. The geography domain includes both physical and human geography. The intent of the geography domain is for students to begin to grasp the importance geography plays in their everyday lives. The government/civics domain focuses on selected types of government found in the various areas so that students begin to understand the variety of governments in the world. The economics domain builds on the K-5 economics standards; however, the focus shifts from the United States to how other countries answer the basic questions of economics. The history domain focuses on major events in each region during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

**Textbook**

Sixth Grade World Studies for Georgia Students, Publisher: Gallopade.

**Students will have access to a hard copy textbook as well as online.**

**Grading Policy**

Minor Grades = 60% (Quizzes, labs, classwork)

Major Grades = 40% (Unit tests, essays, research papers, project-based assignments, and assessments)

**Academic Grading Scale**

A (90-100) B (80-89) C (75-79) D (70-74) F (below 70)

**Academic Dishonesty**

The Student Code of Conduct, Rule 1(A)(t), states that no student shall cheat, alter records, plagiarize, receive unauthorized assistance, or assist another in any type of academic dishonesty. When the assignment calls for students to produce original work, students will not use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to generate the assignment for them. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. Additionally, the task may be entered as incomplete, and the student is required to redo the assignment or retake the assessment.

**Relearn & Reassess (R&R Procedures)**

After any major assessment, students can submit a relearning plan for parent and teacher approval. Students scoring below 70 on a major assessment should be expected to complete a relearning plan unless exempted with parent approval. Teachers have discretion to determine if R&R opportunities will be given for any minor assessment.

**Late Work**

Students are expected to submit work on time. Students are expected to submit work on time. Any late work received after the specified deadline will lose 5 points per day that it is late up to 5 days from the due date.

**Make-up Work**

Students are expected to make-up assignments and assessments missed due to absence from school. Students are responsible for asking teachers for the make-up work upon returning to class. Make-up work should be completed by the student within the time specified by the teacher.

**Homework**

Homework will be assigned as needed. Homework is for practice or preparation for instruction is intended to build skills and understanding. Projects and large assignments needing more work time may be assigned as homework graded upon completion.

**Cell phones**

The use of cell phones, electronic communication devices and/or accessories is prohibited for all students at all times during the instructional day, which is defined as the time the student arrives on campus until the end of the school day and/or the time the student leaves campus.

* **First Offense:** The first offense will result in the electronic device being confiscated, to be picked up by the student or parent at the end of the same school day.
* **Second Offense:** The second offense will result in the electronic device being confiscated, to be picked up by the parent on the Friday following confiscation, at the specific time.
* **Third Offense:** The third offense will result in the electronic device being confiscated, to be picked up by the parent on the Friday following confiscation, at the specific time.
* **Fourth Offense:** The fourth offense and thereafter will result in the electronic device being confiscated for ten (10) school days, and the parent must schedule a conference with an administrator to retrieve the electronic device.
* **Further incidents may result in the student losing the privilege of bringing electronic devices on campus, in-school suspension, out of school suspension, and any other forms of discipline deemed appropriate under the circumstances.**

**Classroom Expectations**

1. Respect yourself, your teacher, your peers and their property

**2.** Follow directions the first time they are given

3. Raise your hand before speaking

4. Keep hands, feet and other objects to yourself

5. Use class time appropriately, no excessive talking or horseplay

**Course Materials**

1. 1 Pkg of Notebook paper

2. 1 Yellow Folder w/brads

3. Bx #2 Pencils

4. 1 Bx of Colored Pencils

5. 1 Bx of Markers

6. 1Pkg of Pencil Top Erasers

7. 1 Composition Notebook

9. 1 Pkg of Dividers

10. 1 Bx of Crayons

11. Headphones

**Teacher Wish List**

1. Clorox or Lysol Sanitizer Wipes

2. Kleenex

3. Hand Sanitizer

4. Ziplock Bags (quart size or larger)

5. Index Cards (small & large)

**Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further guidance on Richmond County School System’s policies and procedures.**

**My contact information: Email:** **GaitoKi@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us**

**ClassDojo – Invites will be sent to your email and/or cell phone #**

**Pine Hill Middle School Phone Number:** 706-592-3730

**CONTRACT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SYLLABUS**

**Please complete sign the form acknowledging that you have read the class syllabus with your child.**

**Student Contract:** I understand that all work should be completed on time. I understand that my teacher may deduct five points per day and communicate this in my Infinite Campus gradebook. I also understand that work turned in after the learning has occurred may not be graded (no more than 5 school days from the due date). I understand that using Artificial Intelligence to complete assignments where I am asked to produce original work will be considered Academic Dishonesty.

**Parent Contract:** I understand that my child is expected to complete assignments on time. I will remain in communication with my child’s teacher and monitor missing and late work as noted in Infinite Campus Parent Portal. If my child continues to submit work late, I understand that a parent-teacher conference will be needed to co-develop a plan of action. I understand that my child should not use Artificial Intelligence to complete assignments where students are asked to produce original

**My signature below indicates that I have thoroughly read the course syllabus provided during the first week of school. This syllabus has important information about course expectations and the grading policy.**

Student’s Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_