**Seventh Grade World Geography**

***Exploring the Physical and Cultural Diversity of God’s World &***

***Striving to See the Earth from His Perspective***

**Teacher: Scott Broadway *scott.broadway@lipscomb.edu***

**Theme Verses for 7th Grade Social Studies:**

***Looking outward:* Isaiah 6:3**

***“Holy, Holy, Holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory.”***

***Looking inward:* Philippians 2:5**

**“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus …”**

**To students:** I am very excited to be joining the faculty at Lipscomb Academy this year, and am looking forward to a great year together. My goal is that your knowledge of the world in which we live will be greatly expanded and further, that the perspective from which you view the world around you will be stretched. You will be challenged to see the world as a part of the larger, grand story that God is writing. I will have high expectations for your performance in this class. Be prepared to work hard, and to think, and explore … but also to have a lot of fun along the way!

**To parents:** I am privileged to have the opportunity of joining with you in the educating of your child. It is a responsibility that I take very seriously. Seventh grade is an important “transition year.” As students make their way “upstairs” for the first time at the Academy, please know that I will certainly endeavor to help your son or daughter to grow academically this year, and likewise in their walk with Christ, as well. If you have any questions or comments throughout the year, please always feel welcome to contact me. I am looking forward to a productive year of growth for your student, both in and out of the classroom, and feel blessed to be a part of it.

**About Me**: My connection with Lipscomb began 26 years ago when I entered David Lipscomb College (as it was known, *way back then*) as a freshman. I grew up in the North (Pennsylvania), graduated from high school in the South (North Carolina), but really felt like I found “home” when I came to Nashville. My life was forever changed by the tremendous professors and administrators at Lipscomb who saw some potential in me, and invested so much to help me to see it in myself, and to develop it in my life, in order to be a blessing to others. Since graduating from Lipscomb in 1992 with a degree in Social Studies Education, I have lived in many exciting locales – from Eastern Europe doing mission work just after the breakup of the former Soviet Union (Kiev, Ukraine) to the West Coast (California - graduating from Pepperdine School of Law, and then moving down to Orange County to teach history and English in the public schools) and even spending a semester in London, England. My personal perspective on the world has been broadened widely through these experiences, providing a wealth of experiences, and stories to help bring places “to life” in the classroom. No place, however, has ever felt more like home to me than has Lipscomb. So it was with much excitement that I moved back to Nashville with my wife, Katherine, and our four daughters, Abbie, Josie, Becca, and Tess, this summer to accept a teaching position in the Academy. (Yes, by far, growing a family was the best part of my years in CA!). All four of our girls are excited to be attending Lipscomb Academy Elementary School this year, but maybe not as much as I am about teaching at the Middle School!

**Expectations:** As a teacher, I am expected to facilitate the learning of my students by providing them with the opportunity and resources to reach the objectives that are set before them, keeping them accountable for their progress while acting in a professional manner at all times. As students, I will expect you to act like the responsible young adults that you are becoming. This includes exhibiting appropriate behavior at all times, and demonstrating a readiness to learn. Parents, please assist me by encouraging students to take responsibility for themselves whenever possible. I welcome the opportunity to discuss any issues that deal with your student, but I ask that you help your children to begin to grow into adulthood by encouraging them to come and talk to me first, before you intervene on their behalf.

**Class Rules:**

1. **Be Respectful:** This includes being respectful to me, to other students, to visitors in the room, and to the property of others. Any time I begin to speak, you should be silent, look at me, and listen attentively. Any time that another student has permission to be speaking in class, you will show him, or her, the same respect. Students should never touch anything that does not belong to them unless they have the appropriate permission. Under normal classroom circumstances, students should raise their hand and wait to be called on before they speak. Students will not leave their seat without permission. Treat others as you would want to be treated.
2. **Be Responsible:** Being responsible includes bringing all materials necessary to participate fully in class. This includes the iPad (more later), pencil or pen, notebook, paper and any other needed supplies to class every day. This also means that you come to class on time with any assignments ready to turn in. Failure to come to class prepared will negatively impact a student’s grade – a late assignment is eligible for partial credit (70%, at most) if made up, and done well, before the unit test. Also, if a student is absent, it is his or her responsibility to make sure the missed work is made up in the appropriate amount of time.
3. **Follow all Lipscomb Academy and Seventh Grade rules**

**Consequences:** The following will occur if students do not act respectfully and responsibly –   
 ● In many (not all) cases a **verbal warning** will be given

* **Demerits** assigned according to the seventh grade policy
* **Afternoon School** assigned per middle school and seventh grade policy
* **Call home to parents/being sent to the office/other natural or logical consequences**

**Procedures:** This list should be referred to on a regular basis.

**Class Time:** Instructional time is valuable. Most days we will stretch learning/instructional time from “bell to bell” and on occasion, even beyond. When you enter the classroom, class has begun. You should immediately read the instructions on the board and begin without any unnecessary talking or activity, regardless of the time on the clock. You should be **IN YOUR SEAT** and working on the posted assignment **before** time for class to start (anything else will be considered tardy). If no assignment is posted, sit quietly and wait for instructions. **I dismiss class** – not the bell, the clock, or other students. You should not begin packing up to leave until I have given you permission or dismissed you, as it is a distraction to what we are trying to accomplish in class and only slows us down, and is disrespectful .

**Absentee/Tardy Admittance to Class:** When you return to school and to my class, you will have to present an admittance slip from the office at the beginning of class. If you return in the middle of class, hand me the slip and have a seat quietly.

**Make-up Work**: When you are absent, it is YOUR responsibility to make sure assignments are made up and graded. Here are five steps to checking for makeup work:

1. Check RenWeb. Look at both the Lesson Plans and the Homework sections (see Schoology site, as well).
2. Check the list of assignments on the board to see what you missed. Look not only for assignments that were given when you were gone, but also for those that may have been checked/graded while you were gone.
3. Check the Handouts Folder on the table in the front of the room for anything you may have missed. Do not just start grabbing papers – look for what you missed.
4. Check with a classmate whom you TRUST to see if there is anything you missed.
5. After you have done all of the above, if you need to, ask me (not while I am teaching) to double check what you have already looked up. Be persistent; I might be busy at the moment, but it is still your responsibility.

**Leaving the Classroom**: Because class time is so valuable, students will only be allowed to exit the room in extreme cases. Please recognize the importance of managing your time well.

**Backpack and Bags**: Backpacks should be kept under student’s desks, and the aisles should be kept clear. 1st period students may neatly leave closed bags in the specified area during the day. Any bags left out of this area, not closed, or not left neatly may be confiscated, turned in to the lost and found, or thrown away. All bags left in the classroom are subject to being searched for absolutely any reason deemed necessary by the teacher. All items that are left must be in a backpack or a bag.

**Always have something to do when you finish your work**. If nothing else, have a book to read. If you tell me that you do not have anything to do, you are really saying, “I was not responsible.”

**Course Overview in Brief:**

**Curriculum Guidelines:** There are several forces that guide the development of the course curriculum

State standards play a role in guiding the curriculum of this class, as continuity with other schools can be beneficial. Playing larger roles in determining curriculum are the College Readiness Standards; specifications set by ERB (Educational Records Bureau); coursework necessary to prepare for future high school and college courses; and technology, writing, Bible infusion, and critical thinking initiatives here at Lipscomb Academy. Interests of the students and teacher are also considered in curriculum development. My life was forever changed by the tremendous professors and administrators there who saw some potential in me, and invested so much to help me to see it in myself, and to develop it in order to be a blessing to others.

**Methods:**

I attempt to use as many different teaching methods as possible to reach as many different learning styles and intelligences as possible and to keep things interesting to students (and to me). This may be confusing for students who prefer a very predictable, rigid format. One important thing to remember about this class is that it is presentation and discussion-based. This aspect results in a class that is extremely difficult to “make up” if a student is absent. Please strive for strict attendance.

**Textbooks:**

The traditional textbook, *Exploring Our World: People, Places, and Cultures* (Glencoe) has been loaded on to my Schoology site as .pdf files and will be accessible in school and at home by iPad or computer. In addition to the textbook approach, many other resources will be utilized to enhance student learning and engagement.

**iPads:**

We will be going over a set of school iPad rules in class that students must strictly adhere to. Failure to follow the iPad rules explicitly could result in the loss of the privilege of use of the device for a time. If that happens, alternate assignments will be assigned to individual students.