Course Description:

 In 7th Grade Social Studies we will study Civics during the first semester and Geography during the second semester.

In Civics we will study the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States and how the government functions.

In Geography we will focus on physical and cultural features of the world, including landforms, climate, religions, foods, and history of the world’s regions.

Class Website:

Assignments and daily agendas will be available on **Schoology** and organized by weekly folders. Log on to [mcpss.schoology.com](https://mcpss-my.sharepoint.com/personal/dvandenbosch_mcpss_com/Documents/Civics/Week%20One/mcpss.schoology.com) with your MCPSS username and password. If you are absent from class, please check the folder for that day BEFORE emailing or messaging me with questions.

Electronic Devices:

**CELL PHONES** will NOT be used

at school. They must be powered off and put away. You are expected to bring your **Chromebook** and charger every day. Chromebooks are to be used for approved purposes only (and not for games, YouTube, and surfing unauthorized websites!). You may not take pictures, videos, or type in shared docs with others. You are expected to stay on task and complete any assignments during the class period they are assigned.

Contact Me:

**John Kloeckener**

Email: jkloeckener@mcpss.com

Phone: 251-221-2106 (Office)

Room 206 Clark-Shaw Magnet School

Supplies:

* Loose leaf notebook paper
* Pencils or pens
* Binder (may be shared with another class)

Grading:

All your work in class will be assessed, but not everything will be given a grade in the gradebook. Please don’t ask if an activity is for a grade…always give your best effort!

Your final average each quarter will come from your grades in the following categories:

**Major Grades (Tests/Projects): 60%**

**Minor Grades (Classwork): 40%**

Missing work due to absences will be coded as a “1” in the gradebook and may be made up in accordance with school policy. An assignment receiving a “0” cannot be made up.

Course Themes

Historical Thinking- Analyzing primary and secondary sources.

Civic Mindedness- Applying what we have learned to improve our communities.

Globalization- Connectedness to the whole world.

Civics

This syllabus is subject to change. Students will be notified of changes in class.

**4th Quarter**

Unit 6: Russia & Eurasia

Unit 7: Sub-Saharan Africa

Unit 8: Southwest Asia & North Africa

Unit 9: South Asia

Unit 10: East Asia

Unit 11: Southeast Asia

Unit 12: Australia, Pacific Realm, & Antarctica

**3rd Quarter**

Unit 1: The World/Geography Introduction

Unit 2: North America

Unit 3: Central America

Unit 4: South America

Unit 5: Europe

Geography

**2nd Quarter**

Unit 6: U.S. (federal) government and its 3 branches

Unit 7: Political parties, voting, and elections

Unit 8: State and local government

Unit 9: Economics and personal finance

**1st Quarter**

Unit 1: Citizenship & civic engagement

Unit 2: Types of government & foundations of U.S. government

Unit 3: The U.S. Constitution

Unit 4: The Bill of Rights & constitutional amendments

Unit 5: Basics of criminal & civil law