



Tanglewood Middle School



An International Baccalaureate World School

5215 San Felipe Houston, Texas 77056

(713) 625-1411/Fax: (713) 625-1415

Gretchen Kasper-Hoffman, Principal

J. Maldonado & A. Phillips, Deans

Instructor: Mr. Gib Henington

Room 164

E-Mail: gheningt@houstonisd.org

Conference Periods: Tuesday & Thursday 10:15-11:15 am

To make an appointment for a meeting: Contact the Sustainability House 6th Grade team leader Mr. Speer at

michael.speer@houstonisd.org

Detailed information about what we are learning in class is available at www.tangleworld.org

Look in the class blog for details. A link is cross-posted in Living Tree each day that it is updated.

I want to welcome you to Tanglewood and to middle school. The 6th grade World Cultures course is designed to provide a survey of 14 major world regions. We learn to look at the regions through the fields of history, geography, culture, government and economics. During the year we also begin to spiral the skillset that is needed to be successful social studies students in middle and high school.

As an IB World School, we focus on six global contexts as well as the key and related concepts from the IB framework. Students use the inquiry process to identify areas of interest for further exploration. There is a focus, as well, on the “Approaches to Learning” and the many skills that an IB student needs for the Diploma Program at an IB High School anywhere in the world.

My course is divided into “units” that are often interdisciplinary. This means that we are working with other subjects in a common unit that enhances the depth of understanding in an area of exploration. Learning shouldn’t stop at the artificial boundary between my subject area and another. The IB program is designed to break down those boundaries.

My special focus every year is building geographic spatial ability and learning how to conduct and use research. My course spirals from easier to more challenging in these areas so be prepared for rising expectations. There are a number of projects ahead to showcase your learning. This is the beginning of a great adventure.

Expectations in my Classroom

Plan ahead for my class. Please come prepared.

You will need to be on time to my class and begin the warm up as you walk in.

You are at group tables to learn cooperation, an important real-world skill. I expect you to work with your team.

Disruptions to learning are not acceptable. Help keep our class focused.

Do your part to make my class your best one each day.

Follow the IB Learner Profile when thinking about how to work with others.

Consequences are restorative and will require the child to fix what they break.

Course Materials

2 Composition Notebooks (Not spirals, they are dangerous)

Black ink pens (Used by other classes as well)

Box of colored pencils (Used by other classes as well)

Glue stick or bottle of glue (Used by other classes as well)

Pencils (Used by other classes as well)

Grading Policy

All work on which a grade is taken and appears on Gradespeed is a summative grade for that six weeks and converted (according to Tanglewood MS policy) from the IB rubric score to percentile:

8 = 100

7 = 95

6 = 90

5 = 85

4 = 80

3 = 75

2 = 70

1 = 65

0 = 60

0 = Msg (Missing), for work never turned in.

On Gradespeed, everything is a stand-alone grade focusing on four IB Assessment criteria. Some projects might have multiple grades, from several criteria:

Criteria A - **Knowing and Understanding**: Using terminology and demonstrating through maps, tests, quizzes, and projects.

Criteria B - **Investigating**: formulating research questions, following research plans, using proper research methods and evaluating the research process with Research Logs, Reflections on Research.

Criteria C - **Communicating**: Using appropriate style and structure on maps, projects, and essays, and correctly documenting sources on bibliographies.

Criteria D - **Thinking Critically**: Discussing issues and visuals, synthesizing information to make an argument, evaluate sources and interpret perspectives on projects and research.

On the parent portal version of Gradespeed you will see grade broken up into these categories.

Home Work grades are part of a portfolio. There are eight formal home works per six weeks. Each grade is one portfolio point. Complete all the home works and you should receive an 8/8. We have homework every day that we meet.

Late Work

Late work will be accepted up to three days after the posted due date for the assignment. Work that is late is assessed using mastery (IB 3) or as the highest grade possible.

Make Up Work When Absent

If a student is absent when an assignment is given, it is up to him or her to either go to my website at www.tangleworld.org, where I place all work missed, or ask for work the day they return. He or she has 3 class meetings to turn in the missing work. Full IB credit is available within this three day period.

Thank You,

Gib Henington

Please keep this page for your records.

Detach, sign and return the next page.

Name: _____

Period: _____

Homework #1 – Sign and Return

Yes, I have read the Course Guidelines.

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____