



Advanced Learner Program (ALP) 6th Grade Social Studies Syllabus School Year 2015-16

Students taking above grade level courses in ELA and Math are required to complete their current grade level Study Island Pathways as preparation for the End of Grade, as well as the above grade level Study Island Pathways, as part of their current course requirements. For students taking high school courses, they are required to complete their current grade level End of Grade as well as the End of Course test for designated high school courses.

GCA's ALP program stands for the Advanced Learner Program. This program is designed to offer opportunities to enrich your learning so that you will reach your academic potential. This year we are incorporating Project Based Learning and Problem Based Learning. **Project Based Learning** is a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to a complex question, problem, or challenge. **Problem-based learning (PBL)** is a student-centered pedagogy in which students learn about a subject through the experience of solving an open-ended problem. Each teacher will design these learning opportunities around the Georgia Standards of Excellence as well as the data we gain from the various forms of assessment throughout the year. Please pay attention to your Monthly Instructional Calendar, Class Connects, and kmails for these extra learning opportunities. **Each individual teacher will decide which projects are optional and which are required.**

Georgia Cyber Academy Middle School Vision Statement:

Virtual learning during the middle school years continues to lay the foundation for success in high school and beyond. In addition to mastering the standards in a virtual environment, we encourage our students to be committed life-long learners and perceptive citizens of the world.

Georgia Cyber Academy Middle School Mission Statement:

We will strive for the academic success of every student. We will create a relationship built on trust and respect among student, learning coach, and teacher, necessary for a student's successful educational journey.

NOTE: *This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor in order to meet your student's individual needs as prescribed in your student's Individualized Learning Plan (ILP).*

Weekly Class Connect Schedule:

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|---|---|
| Advisement and Team Work Time | Every Friday, 8:30-9:30am |
| Social Studies Class Connect Instructional Sessions <i>(Classes will last 60 minutes and will appear in your OLS.)</i> | <i>Live classes will begin August 10th.</i> Mondays at 8:30am or 10:00am Wednesdays at 8:30am or 10:00am <i>Classes begin 5 minutes after rooms open (8:35am and 10:05am)</i> |
| SS W.I.N. Sessions (What I Need) <i>These lessons will last 45 minutes and are specific to the need of the individual student. These are by teacher invitation only.</i> | Tuesdays 1:00-1:45pm or 2:00-2:45pm <i>The teacher will invite individual students and the link will appear in their OLS plan.</i> |

Required live Class Connect sessions will begin August 10th. Occasionally a Class Connect may be canceled due to unforeseen circumstances, or a recording will be sent in place of a live class. These changes will be communicated though kmail and/or on your Monthly Instructional Calendar.

Grading Criteria:

All Middle School students enrolled in Georgia public schools are required to be given formal letter grades. GCA students will earn grades by completing and participating in the various components of our curriculum. An online grade book, Infinite Campus, will be utilized and both students and parents will have access to the grades. Grades will be based on the following scale:

- OLS Progress Expectation – 30% (OLS – Only lessons assigned on the Monthly Instructional Calendar will count as part of the OLS Grade)
- Study Island Pathways Participation – 35%
- Assessments and Writing – 35%

Writing across the Curriculum

In accordance with our school mission to strive for the academic success of every student, this year writing will be included in our Interim Assessments. This plan models the expectations for the end of grade testing and encourages critical thinking. This will be a graded part of the Interim Assessments in USA Test Prep.

Advisement will be a separate category on the report card (GaCollege411 assignments, attending conferences, etc)

Middle School Late Work Policy 15-16

Each student has a Window of Opportunity to complete the following:

OLS - Expected progress is due by May 20th.

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Study Island Pathways – Students must complete 100% of all Study Island Pathways.

- Study Island Pathways are due as advertised (September 30, October 30, December 31, January 29, February 29, and March 31) to demonstrate mastery prior to the GA Milestone End of Grade Testing.
- January enrollees- complete 100% of Pathways 4, 5, and 6. It is recommended to complete all pathways.

ELA Writing assignments-After the end of the semester, the grade will be a 0 if not turned in.

Pre-assessment- After the end of the semester, the grade will be a 0 if not completed.

Interim Assessments and Post-test –If not completed by due date, a 0 will be earned. The Interim Assessments and Post-test are an important part of our instructional plan throughout the year. The results from these assessments give us information of which standards have been mastered and which ones need to be reviewed. For this reason, these assessments are time sensitive and need to be completed during the assigned dates.

PE

- 60 hours by May 20th
- Mid-year enrollees- 30 hours by May 20th

Health

- 30 hours by May 20th
- Mid-year enrollees- 15 hours by May 20th

Electives

- 6th grade – American Art B – 70% OLS completed by May 20th; Mid-year enrollees- if taken 35% completed.
- 7th grade – Intermediate World Art A – 70% OLS completed by May 20th; Mid-year enrollees- if taken 35% completed.
- 8th grade RYAP – Details will be provided by course instructor (earn .5 high school credit).

Middle School recognizes All A and All A/B Honor Roll at the end of semester one and end of semester two. For semester one, grades will be calculated through January 11th for consideration of Honor Roll. Semester one Honor Roll only includes the core content subjects. For semester two, grades will be calculated through May 17th for consideration of Honor Roll. Semester two Honor Roll includes all subjects (core content, PE, Health, Advisement and Elective).

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Course Description:

The Georgia Cyber Academy Social Studies course is a culture-based curriculum. The GCA Social Studies department will directly address Georgia Performance Standards in Class Connect sessions throughout the school year. The Online School (OLS) portion of the course combined with direct teacher instruction and Study Island completion is designed to elicit evidence of students' mandated mastery of the Georgia Performance Standards. The GCA Social Studies curriculum provides a holistic approach to the five themes of geography: location, place, movement, human-environment interaction, and region. Students will use the five themes of Geography to explore different areas of the world.

Purpose and Course Objectives:

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 in order to help students begin to understand the variety of governments in the world. The economics domain builds on the K-5 economics; however, the focus shifts from the United States to how other countries answer the basic questions of economics. The history domain focuses primarily on significant events in each region from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Course Requirements:

- Complete various graded writing assignments/blogs throughout the course of the year, including but not limited to, journals entries and short answer essays. *Due dates will be announced both in Class connect sessions and through Monthly Instructional Calendars sent via kmail.*
- Complete required lessons in the OLS per kmailed Monthly Instructional Calendars.
- Complete required Social Studies Study Island Pathways.
- Complete pre-assessment, 4 interim assessments, and final post assessment in USA Test Prep.
- Attend LIVE sessions (or listen to recordings) of Class Connect sessions.
- Successful mastery of standards on the Georgia Milestone's End of Grade Test – in person the week of April 25-29.

Materials:

You will use the OLS, Study Island, course materials sent via K12 as well as resources kmailed to you by your teacher. A 3-ring Binder is highly recommended to keep lessons and notes in.

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Social Studies Projected Quarterly Topics:

| QTR | CONTENT |
|-----|---------------|
| 1 | Canada |
| 2 | Latin America |
| 3 | Europe |
| 4 | Australia |

SOCIAL STUDIES COMMON CORE/GEORGIA PERFORMANCE STANDARDS:

<https://www.georgiastandards.org/Standards/Pages/BrowseStandards/SocialStudiesStandards6-8.aspx>

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