



EAGLE MOUNTAIN SAGINAW ISD

Fostering a Culture of Excellence

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In Grade 6, students study people, places, and societies of the contemporary world. Societies for study are from the following regions of the world: Europe, Russia and the Eurasian republics, North America, Central America and the Caribbean, South America, Southwest Asia-North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, and the Pacific realm. Students describe the influence of individuals and groups on historical and contemporary events in those societies and identify the locations and geographic characteristics of various societies. Students identify different ways of organizing economic and governmental systems. The concepts of limited and unlimited government are introduced, and students describe the nature of citizenship in various societies. Students compare institutions common to all societies such as government, education, and religious institutions. Students explain how the level of technology affects the development of the various societies and identify different points of view about events. The concept of frame of reference is introduced as an influence on an individual's point of view.

In this course, we use Project Based Learning to help students learn better. PBL motivates students to gain knowledge and remember it longer. PBL gives students the chance to apply the skills they learn in school to personally relevant and real-world situations. Your child also learns skills in PBL such as how to think critically to create effective and innovative solutions, collaborate with peers, and communicate effectively in a variety of forms and settings. These skills will help students succeed in the future, both in school and in today's economy.

Our project is called *Reflection Museum* and it will last six weeks. Students will learn about art, culture, and society. The driving question of the project, which focuses our work, is *how do cultural expressions transcend the boundaries of society?* Students will work collaboratively as museum curators to design and defend an exhibit about cultural expressions. Learners will also work independently to curate components of the exhibit defending an argument about how cultural expressions transcend the boundaries of societies.

Students are assessed individually throughout the project based on the knowledge they gain and the skills they demonstrate. Please contact us to access the rubrics we will use to guide the creation of the products and assess your students' work. You may find these helpful in understanding what we are asking students to do and supporting your child during the project.

As parents or guardians, you can discuss the project at home, encouraging your child to think critically and ask questions about the topic. Consider discussing the following questions at home to help deepen your child's learning and foster a culture of academic discourse in your home:

Project Questions:

- How do cultural expressions transcend the boundaries of societies?
- How have contemporary expressions of culture been influenced by the past?
- How have contemporary issues influenced creative expressions?
- How does geography influence the way people live?
- What makes a culture unique?
- How do themes such as religion, justice, and the passage of time shape society?

Critical Thinking Questions:

- What is the most important part of what you just learned about ____?
- How can you apply what you just learned about ____ to a new or different situation?
- How does ____ affect ____?
- Compare ____ to ____; how are they the same, and how are they different?
- After reading or learning about ____, what can you generally say is true, even though there are exceptions to that rule?
- What facts would you use to support your conclusion?

You can also support the project by coming to the final presentation. For more information about when and where the final presentation will be held, please contact your child's teacher. We hope you can attend!

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding your student or the project. We look forward to working with you and your child to ensure their academic success.

Respectfully,

Grade 6 GT/Advanced Humanities Social Studies Teachers