

•HEAD O'MEADOW PTA GEOGRAPHY PROGRAM•

September 2021

Dear Third and Fourth Grade Head O'Meadow Families,

Welcome to the twelfth year of the Head O'Meadow PTA Geography Program! We are ready to hit the maps again and welcome you to take advantage of this opportunity to work together with your child to learn the locations of states, countries, bodies of water, mountain ranges, and continents around the world. Our program is ideal for encouraging parent/child teamwork, puts study skills to work, and most importantly, it will help our children to understand more of how our world is connected through learning the locations of places around the globe.

This year the program is being conducted virtually. This year, every child that wants to **participate must opt in via instructions below.** We will communicate study guides through email to limit paper transfer. Fillable tests will be emailed to program participants on the test day for return via email on that same day.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE PROGRAM? You must opt-in by **October 8, 2021** following the below instructions. Each month, participating students will be emailed a practice map with a notice regarding the test date. Study guides with answers and blank practice maps are posted on the HOM PTA website (<https://hom.newtown.k12.ct.us/PTA>) to help students study and fill in their practice maps. Online sources or an atlas can help them check their work. Each map indicates the passing score your child will need to attain to progress to the next test the following month. The tests follow a sequence based on the tests level of difficulty. If your child does not meet the goal score on a map in any given month, he/she will have the opportunity to retake that test the following month. The sequence of geography tests in our program is as follows:

- Eastern States and Capitals
- Western States and Capitals
- United States Bodies of Water
- Mountains and Canadian Provinces
- South America and Surrounding Countries
- Continents, Oceans, and Major Se
- Europe
- Africa



WHEN ARE THE TESTS GIVEN? WHO ADMINISTERS AND CORRECTS THE TESTS? Geography tests will be emailed to each student according to the schedule below. There will be at least three weeks between tests to provide students with enough time to study. Students' geography tests will be identical to the map they have been studying at home. Trained PTA volunteers will be correcting the tests this year and tracking scores. New maps for your child to study for the following month will be emailed to you once the scores have been reported by the PTA volunteers. Corrected tests will be returned through email. Tests are typically returned within one week of when they were taken. If a student passes each map on the first try, he/she will have had the opportunity to take all eight of the program's tests and will receive special recognition at the end of the school year. After the eight monthly tests during the school year have been completed, there will be a final makeup in late May/early June for only those students who are eligible to take/retake the Africa test.

DO MY CHILD’S SCORES AFFECT HIS/HER GRADES? Although the geography program is voluntary, we encourage participation because of its many benefits to students. Please note that your child’s scores on these geography tests are not a part of the grades your child receives from his/her teacher. This is meant to be a fun learning opportunity which supplements the social studies curriculum. Support and encouragement from you can make learning geography a great experience for the whole family. Our website has links to some great online resources for studying states, capitals, and locations of places on all eight of our maps.

WHEN IS THE FIRST TEST? The first test, Eastern States and Capitals, will be provided to all 3rd and 4th graders who opt-in to participate on **October 29th**.

HOW DO I SIGN-UP? If you wish to participate:

1. Send an email to homgeographyprogram@gmail.com
2. The subject line in the email should state “Opt-In” with the teacher’s name (ex. Opt-In Neves)
3. The body of the email should include your child’s full name, the parent/guardian name and the best email to send information to.
4. Opt-in confirmation emails must be sent no later than **Friday, October 8th by 6:00PM.**
5. Once an Opt-in confirmation email is received, you will be emailed a study guide for the Eastern States and Capitals test

Test	Study Guide Email	Day that the Test is to be issued (Friday)
Eastern States and Capitals	Sunday, October 10 th	October 29 th
Western States and Capitals	Sunday, October 31 st	November 19 th
United States Bodies of Water	Sunday, November 21 st	December 17 th
Mountains and Canadian Provinces	Sunday, December 19 th	January 14 th
South America and Surrounding Countries	Sunday, January 16 th	February 11 th
Continents, Oceans, and Major Seas	Sunday, February 13 th	March 11 th
Europe	Sunday, March 13 th	April 8 th
Africa	Sunday April 10 th	May 6 th
Make-Up Test Africa Only	Sunday, May 8 th	May 27 th

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our program. Thank you for your support of this important program!

Sabrina Hull, HOM Geography Program Coordinator – homgeographyprogram@gmail.com