

•HEAD O'MEADOW PTA GEOGRAPHY PROGRAM•

Dear Third and Fourth Grade Head O'Meadow Families,

Welcome to the ninth year of Head O'Meadow's PTA Geography Program! We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity for you 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, which operates similarly to programs at the other three elementary schools in town, 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.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE PROGRAM? Each month, students who choose to participate in this voluntary PTA-sponsored program will bring home a practice map. Students fill in their maps using an online source or atlas and can check their work by looking on the Head O'Meadow website. There you will find practice maps (without answers) and study guides (with answers) on the PTA page. Each map indicates the passing score your child will need to attain to progress to the next test the following month, as the tests follow a sequence based on their 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 try again with that same map 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 Seas
- Europe
- Africa



WHEN ARE THE TESTS GIVEN? WHO ADMINISTERS AND CORRECTS THE TESTS? Geography tests will be given in the classroom by your child's teacher during the first full week of every month from October through May. A schedule of test dates for the 2019-2020 school year can be found here on our HOM PTA website. Students' geography tests will be identical to the map they have been studying at home. Trained PTA volunteers will be correcting the tests, tracking scores, and providing a new map for your child to study for the following month. 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, there will be a final makeup in late May for only those students who are eligible to take or 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 and supplements our 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 map tests. As parents, you know your child best and can gauge the best way to study the maps and make a decision as to how much time to devote to preparing for our tests.

The HOM Geography Program is meant to strengthen our students' geography skills in a fun and engaging way with their families. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our program. Thank you for your support of this important program!

Sabrina Charney Hull, HOM Geography Program Coordinator

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