WESTCHESTER
COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

AP Human Geography Summer Assignment

Human geography is the study of our physical world – both natural features (like land masses, bodies of water, mountains, and deserts) and human made features (like buildings, roadways, villages and nations). It considers how humans have shaped the development of our modern world and how natural features have influenced human decisions about development. It not only asks "where are things in the world," it also asks "why are they located as such?" Though you may have previously learned about many of the core topics in this course, our Advanced Placement curriculum will ask you to think about them in new and sophisticated ways. Your summer assignment consists of Chapter 1 of *Why Geography Matters More Than Ever* by Harm de Blij, reading questions and a background knowledge list you should familiarize yourself with. This assignment is to be handwritten and is due the first day of school. This assignment is evidence of your commitment to the AP course workload; if you find you are unable to complete the assignment, your readiness for the course expectations will be reconsidered. You are expected to be very familiar with this material the first time we meet. Should you choose to complete your work early in the summer, you need to review your notes before we meet in August.

Read Chapter 1 and answer study questions in complete sentences on lined paper (NOT torn from a spiral notebook).

1. What is GIS?
2. What led De Blij to become a geographer?
3. How did the field of geography originate and develop?
4. Who are some of its leading figures?
5. What four geographic traditions does De Blij identify?
6. As in the cases of the economists Paul Krugman and Jeffrey Sachs, as well as the physiologist Jared Diamond, how may geographers help strengthen the work and correct the misconceptions of specialists in other fields?

7. What are some fields in which geographers work?
8. What view of geography was represented by Carl Sauer?
9. What is the gravity model (and distance decay) concerning interaction between cities?
10. What are some of the specializations?
11. What is some evidence for the geographical illiteracy of Americans?
12. How did professional educators contribute to the problem through social studies?
13. What sorts of steps have been taken to reverse the trend, and by whom?
14. Why is it important to resurrect regional studies?

I look forward to working with you all throughout the 2026-2027 school year. My email is bright.carter@westchestercds.org should you have any questions.