

EL WORLD GEOGRAPHY 2026–2027

Contact Information

Teacher: Mrs. Samm Melbye

New Email: SJMELBYE@west-fargo.k12.nd.us

Office: 106G (EL Office) Available: 4B

Classrooms: 1A & 3B - 112C; 2.3A – 204H, 1B & 2.3B – 107C, 3A – 101GB

Class Materials

- iPad – Charged
- Writing Utensil (pencil/pen)
- Folder

Course Objectives

- Students will understand **location** by using and creating different types of maps.
- Students will understand **place** by being able to describe their physical and human features.
- Students will understand **interactions** that cultures and societies have with their **environment**.
- Students will understand how people, ideas, and goods **move** between places.
- Students will understand the differences and similarities of **regions** around the world.

Classroom Expectations

- **Be Responsible!**
 - Come to class on time, with the right materials, and in your seat by the bell.
 - Fill out your planner – include homework assignments, quizzes, and tests.
 - When you come to class late, do not make a scene or interrupt the learning. 5 unexcused tardies will result in a DT (detention tardy).
 - iPads are not to be used to watch YouTube videos and/or play games during class. You can do this outside of class time.
 - Have good study habits such as reviewing material outside of class time, asking questions, and minimizing procrastination.
 - Attend WIN sessions and/or email the teacher when you need assistance.
- **Be Respectful!**
 - Respect each other's ideas, space, and belongings. Respect your teacher, classmates, and yourself!
 - The words we use are powerful. We must choose them wisely and make sure they are not used to put someone down or degrading the classroom environment.
 - The teacher oversees dismissing you. Your teacher will give you time to pack up your belongings and materials. Make sure to clean the space around you before you leave. Stay by your seat until you are dismissed. You do not need to wait by the door.

- **Be Ready to Learn!**

- Read the daily agenda on the board and on Schoology.
- Utilize your class time to complete work when you are given work time.
- Complete assignments on time, prepare for quizzes and tests in and outside of class, and do your very best.

- **Language Expectations:** Students in my room are fortunate to speak other language(s) other than English. Since students in my classroom represent a variety of languages, it is important that we use a language that everyone is able to understand. During our class time, I expect that students speak English. Before school, between classes, during lunchtime, and after school, you can speak whatever language you would like. Our class time is meant to increase our understanding of English and help students develop language skills that will help them be successful.

- **Participation Expectations:** Students are expected to participate in all activities that are happening in class. Students are expected to give everything their best try even if it is hard.
 - **IXLs:** IXLs are used as practice on different topics that are being taught in class. Students are expected to complete IXLs without the use of classroom materials or the internet.

- **Follow School and District Policies!**

- **Attendance:**

- **Absences:** If you miss class for any reason, you need to check Schoology for any missed assignments. Paper assignments will be able to be picked up in the black file holder. If you know of an upcoming absence, please inform the teacher well in advance so we can make a plan to keep up with the work. It is best to send an email, and we can connect during class, during WIN sessions, or before/after school.
- **Tardiness:** A tardy is any situation in which you arrive at class late or unprepared. 5 unexcused tardies will result in a DT (Detention Tardy).

- **Cellphones:** Beginning the 2025-2026 school year, WFHS rules regarding

WFHS ATTENDANCE PROTOCOL STUDENT/FAMILY	
WHEN	WHAT
Ongoing!	Create schedules and routines that promote regular attendance as attendance is one of the most important indicators for high school success. This includes scheduling vacations around school breaks and leveraging study halls and Open Campus blocks for appointments. Additionally, if your student is at an appointment (medical, dental, etc.), submit documentation to the Main Office right away for the absence to be coded as medical. Excusals are only allowed within the first two weeks of the absence.
After the fourth absence in at least one course	Attendance Check-In: Your family will receive communication about your student's attendance via email. This is an opportunity to identify and address any barriers to regular attendance.
After the sixth absence in at least one course	Family Contact & Support: A staff member will contact your family to discuss attendance and determine what support may be helpful. You may be referred to the WFHS Social Worker.
After the eighth absence in at least one course	Attendance Contract: An administrator will meet with the student to discuss attendance concerns and the family will be notified. The student will also be placed on an Attendance Contract, clearly outlining future expectations.
After the tenth absence in at least one course	Loss of Assignment/Assessment Credit Begins: On the 11th and 12th absence in a class, you will not receive credit for work assigned or due on the days you are absent <u>without a medical note</u> . If you are present in class, you can still earn credit for your work.
After the thirteenth absence in at least one course	Loss of Course Credit: Administration will review the student's attendance and remove the student from the course with a Loss of Credit (LC). Additional supports or an intervention plan for credit recovery may also be put in place.

personal device usage (cell phone, smartwatch, personal laptop, etc.) will be as follows:

- Cell phones, smart watches, and all other personal devices that can send and receive messages are OUT-OF-SIGHT and OUT-OF-USE from 8:25am until 3:35pm.
 - Devices CANNOT be kept on your person (in a pocket, etc.). They must, at a bare minimum, be kept in a CLOSED backpack pocket. Devices can also be left in your car, at home, etc.
 - Devices CANNOT be utilized or checked during passing times, lunch time, or Open Campus if you choose to remain on campus.
 - If you leave the classroom to visit the nurse, go to the bathroom, etc., your backpack (with your phone inside) STAYS IN THE CLASSROOM. ‘
 - Consequences are as follows:
 - **First Offense:** The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the student at the end of the student's day
 - **Second Offense:** The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the parent/guardian at their earliest convenience, not to be returned to the student until the end of the student's day
 - **Third Offense:** The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the parent/guardian at their earliest convenience, not to be returned to the student until the end of the student's day, behavior plan assigned to the student
 - **Fourth Offense:** The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the parent/guardian at their earliest convenience, not to be returned to the student until the end of the student's day, 1 day ISS
 - **Fifth Offense:** The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the parent/guardian at their earliest convenience, not to be returned to the student until the end of the student's day, 1 day OSS
 - **Sixth Offense:** The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the parent/guardian at their earliest convenience, not to be returned to the student until the end of the student's day, transition to Virtual Program for the at least the remainder of the semester
- **iPads:** iPads are the property of WFPS. This is a reminder that abusing iPad privileges could result in the loss of the iPad. If you are not allowed to use your iPad because you were abusing the privilege, you will be given paper assignments moving forward.
- **Food and Beverages:** All drinks must have a spill-proof lid. Do not make a mess! Do not let your drink distract you from class or this privilege will be revoked. Food is allowed, but if you make a mess you are responsible for cleaning up that mess. If you do not clean up your mess, the privilege of having fun drinks and food will be taken away,

- **Hall Passes:** Students will not be able to leave the class during the first and last 15 minutes of class and during direct instruction. If students need to use the restroom during worktime, they will make a pass and wait for it to be approved. Students **cannot** take their backpacks with them. Other passes will be approved by teacher discretion.

Academic Policies

- **Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism is wrong. This means you should not copy someone else's work or ideas and say they are yours. Show the same respect you would want for your own hard work. Do not copy and paste sentences from the internet, a textbook, or any other source. You must use your own words (this is called *paraphrasing*) or give credit to the source (this is called *citing*). Copying from another student or letting someone copy from you is cheating. This will result in zero points for both students. This also includes using AI, like ChatGPT, Google Gemini, etc. If you are found to have cheated, your principal will be contacted. If the cheating continues, contact will be made with your guardians.
- **Late Work:** All late work needs to be turned in by the end of unit assessment; **after that, missing assignments from the unit will no longer be accepted. DO NOT** wait to turn in classwork before the assessment. You will fall behind in this class, and you will end up in WIN sessions or be asked to come in before or after school to get caught up. Assignments not turned in by the due date will be marked with an orange missing flag and will have a zero until it is turned in. Assignments turned in before the end of the unit will be graded with a red late flag in PowerSchool. Assignments will be marked zero with a red late flag when an assignment is no longer allowed to be turned in.
- **Redoing Work:** You are expected to get a 70% or higher on your work. If your work is below 70%, you will be asked to redo the assignment. WIN sessions will be utilized to get caught up on work and to meet expectations.
- **Grading:** This class is based on a total point system. Your grade will be based on a variety of assessments including but not limited to map work, analyzing primary and secondary sources, quizzes, discussions, reading guides/notes, and end of unit assessments (tests, projects, etc.)

Grading Scale: A = 90% + B = 89-80% C = 79-70% D = 69-60% F = 59% and below