

West Springfield High School 2025 - 2026

- The West Springfield Social Studies Department Chair is Brad Swain (2076)- btswain@fcps.edu
 - World History and Geography I curriculum (CT) leader – Kaitlin Owczarski (2073)- kmowczarski@fcps.edu

Expectations of 9th Graders:

<u>AP Human Geography:</u>	<u>Honors World 1:</u>	<u>Standard World 1:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is it? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Its more than WHERE places are. It's the <u>WHY and HOW</u> of humans changing the surface of the Earth! ● An <u>introductory college level class</u> ● Advised to have a B+ or higher in 7th & 8th grade BOTH Social Studies and English courses. ● Advised to have passed advanced English and Social Studies SOLs/Performance based assessments. ● Student should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reading non-textbook sources both inside and outside of class including news articles, journal articles, etc. <u>that are of a college reading level.</u> ○ Engage in effective class discussion both with instructor and peers. ○ Apply content learned to real world scenarios. ○ Independently research and apply it to learned content. ● Expectations of completing homework assigned nearly nightly averaging 30-45 minutes. ● +1.0 GPA bump received at end of year. ● Students earn verified credit upon earning a 2 of higher (out of 5) on the AP exam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advised to have a B+ or higher in 7th & 8th grade BOTH Social Studies and English courses. ● Advised to have passed advanced English and Social Studies SOLs/Performance based assessments. ● Expectations of reading and writing performed <u>both inside and outside of class</u> that are of higher rigor and length than standard history ● Student should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Successfully write a claim (or thesis) statement</u> and support it in more than one paragraph. ○ <u>Independently read and answer questions</u> on multi-page articles and sources. ● The honors curriculum includes challenging primary and secondary sources, requiring the development of analytical skills. ● Willingness to perform multiple projects and be a frequent contributor to class discussion. ● Possess time management skills that allow for successful completion of several tasks over extended time frames both in class and at home. ● Expectation of completing homework assigned nightly, averaging roughly 30-45 minutes per period. ● Exhibits a high interest in Social Studies classes ● +.5 GPA bump received at end of year. ● Students earn verified credit by completing 3 Performance Based Assessments throughout the year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expectation of nightly homework averaging roughly 15-30 minutes of homework per class period. ● 1 writing assignment per quarter starting with greater support ending with independence. ● In class projects required both independent work and collaboration. ● No GPA bump is available at this level. ● Students earn verified credit by completing 3 Performance Based Assessments throughout the year.

Questions regarding World History and Geography I can be directed to World History I team lead Katilin Owczarski at kmowczarski@fcps.edu

Questions regarding AP Human Geography can be directed to department chair Brad Swain at btswain@fcps.edu