Geography Year at a Glance

**Semester 1:**

**Introduction**: In this first unit of Geography, we will center on the questions of who we are and where we are. The result of this unit will be to ground our work for the entire year by deepening our understanding of ourselves, other people, and environments in which we exist.

**5 Themes of Geography**: The second unit focuses on the 5 Themes of Geography (Region, Location, Place, Movement, and Human-Environment Interaction). Students will explore each theme by researching a place in the world of their choosing.

**Location/Place**: The final unit of the first semester will delve further into the 3 Themes that help to define people and places in the world. In this unit, students will study how spaces are related, how people and culture are defined and related, and how to use and create maps.

**Semester 2**:

**Movement**: The fourth unit of the year, and the first of the second semester will focus on the Theme of Movement. Students will study in depth how the movement of people, goods/services, and ideas and information have shaped and continue to shape people, culture, and environments.

**Human-Environment Interaction**: The final unit of year will have students critically analyze how humans and culture shape and affect their environments as well as how the environments in which we live shape us as well as our culture.

**Honors Geography**: Students who elect to take Geography as an honors course will be subject to much higher standards with regard to art, writing, content knowledge, and projects. Further, students will be required to read a novel each semester that focuses on another culture, or is set in another part of the world. Following completing the novel, the student will complete a project of their choosing (upon approval of the teacher) to demonstrate their deepened knowledge of Geography concepts from class. A reading list will be provided upon request for the students, and they should be able to procure the novel of their choosing from the local Denver Public Library, or they may order it online. Students should get approval of their novel as well as their final project prior to beginning.