Grade 7 – GEOGRAPHY SYLLABUS 2010-2011

Class Organization:

- Each grade 7 class has two (2) scheduled contact periods each week for Geography - a double (1 hr & 10 mins.)
- All three aspects of Geography – Physical, human and Mapwork Geography topics are covered during the double period.

Topics:

- **Background to Geography**
  - Definition of Geography
  - The importance of Geography
  - The branches of Geography and why they are so named
  - Careers of Geography
  - Tools and methods of Geographical investigation
    - Questionnaires, interviews, observation, photographs, sketches, etc.

- **Physical Geography-Earth**
  - Define the universe, solar system, sun, planets, stars
  - The solar system components and arrangement
  - The Earth as a part of the universe and as a part of the Solar System
  - The shape of the Earth and proof of such
  - Lines of Latitude and Longitude - names, measurement, hemisphere, importance of lines
  - Location of places using Latitude and Longitude
  - Earth Interior Structure
  - Location and simple description (physical state) of core, mantle and crust

  - **Earth Exterior Structure**
    - Landmasses: define and name continents, islands
    - Water bodies: define, name and locate oceans and seas, river and lakes
    - Landforms: definition of mountains, hills, valleys, plateaus, plains,
    - Name major landforms of the continents
    - Minerals: definition, examples, uses
✓ Rocks: definition, main types, simple description, basic/simple formation of each type, examples, uses

❖ Mapwork

❖ Introduction to mapwork

- Map: definition, importance
- Types of maps: physical, political, economic, climate etc.
- The difference between map, plan, sketch, diagram and photograph
- Qualities of a good map and importance of each feature: title, scale, key/legend, north line (eight point compass), border/frame
- Types of scales- linear, ratio/R.F, Direct statement

❖ Simple map skills

- Locating places using Four-figure grid reference
- Locating one place from another using 8-point compass
- Conventional symbols used on large –scale maps to show church, school, height, vegetation and roads
- Conventional colours used in atlases to show water and relief
- Land use mapping of the immediate environment
- Interpretation of land use and physical features
- Identify simple landforms and land use: hill, flatland/plain, slopes (steep and gentle)

❖ Regional/Human Geography

❖ Jamaica

- Position, size, political divisions i.e. countries and parishes
- Physical features- Landforms and Rivers
- Climate
- Population – composition and distribution
- How the people make a living
  ✓ Farming
  ✓ Fishing
✓ Mining
✓ Manufacturing
✓ Tourism

- Distinguish between rural and urban areas, with examples

**Environment and hazards**

- *Impact of man on the environment*
  - ✓ Deforestation and Soil erosion: types, causes, consequences and mitigation
  - ✓ Pollution: types, causes, consequences and mitigation

- *Natural hazards and disasters in the Caribbean*
  - ✓ Differentiate between natural hazards and disasters
  - ✓ Definition, characteristics, impact, preparedness of:
    - Hurricanes
    - Floods
    - Droughts
    - Earthquakes