CIVICS (United States Government)

Instructor:
Mr. Damon J. Jackson, M.A.T.

Area(s) of certification:
English, 6th -12th grade
Social Studies, 6th -12th grade
Mild/Moderate, 6th -12th grade

Room # 300

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Planning: Fourth Block

Course Description:
- This course is designed to provide students with a practical knowledge and understanding of the study of American government, and its direct connection to its citizens. It’s important for students to connect with the democratic process as citizens of the United States.
- Students will be able to apply knowledge of the US Constitution and demonstrate their understanding of how the American system of government functions on the local, state and national levels as well as the impact on individual citizens. Students will also be able to demonstrate their understanding that US citizens have both rights and responsibilities in order for our government to maintain order in our society.

Course Requirements:
Class assignments will be given daily. Students are responsible for completing all homework and classwork assignments, including weekly study guides. All students are responsible for bringing a charged laptop computer to class for purposes of classwork, and obtaining notes and research from the class Moodle page, and for on-line research.
All honors students are also required to compete in the St. James High School Social Studies fair. Traditional class students are encouraged to participate in the fair.

Grading:
Grading Policy: Grades are cumulative through the end of each semester and will be based only on demonstrated mastery of concepts and development of skills, not effort, or potential. Student performance will be assessed in the following areas: class work, quizzes, weekly tests, and the quarter exams. Each of these areas will be weighted and used to determine letter grades as follows.
* Students will receive an “I” for incomplete work on report cards.

*Although homework is not part of my grading scale, students are expected to review material learned in class daily due to potential pop quizzes that will be given throughout each semester. Students are expected to complete class assignments for homework.

CIVICS OUTLINE:

**UNIT 1: (Quarter 1)**

Chapter 1- Citizenship and Government in a Democracy
Chapter 2- Roots of American Democracy
Chapter 3 – The Constitution
Chapter 4 – The Bill of Rights
Chapter 5 – The Citizen and the Community
Chapter 16 – Civil and Criminal Law

**UNIT 3: (Quarter 2)**

Chapter 9- Political Parties and Politics
Chapter 10- Voting and Elections
Chapter 11 – Influencing Government

Chapter 12 – State Government
Chapter 17 – Citizenship and the Internet

**UNIT 3: (Quarter 3)**

Chapter 6- Congress
Chapter 7- The President and the Executive Branch
Chapter 8- The Judicial Branch
Chapter 13 – Local Government
Chapter 14 – Dealing With Community Issues
Chapter 15 – Legal Rights and Responsibilities
UNIT 4: (Quarter 4)
Chapter 18 – What is Economics?
Chapter 19 – The American Economy
Chapter 20 – Demand
Chapter 21 – Supply
Chapter 22 – Business and Labor
Chapter 23 – Government and the Economy
Chapter 24 – Money and Banking

Methods of Evaluation:
Homework 10% - Evening work
Quizzes 30% - Weekly identification
Class work 20% - Journals, Charts, political cartoons, note packets given weekly
Tests 40% - Test will be administered every week (and as-needed)

Academic Dishonesty Policy
Unauthorized help on a teacher-graded subject test or assignment, a standardized test, or any other competitive exam is considered cheating. Any student caught cheating will receive a grade of “F” on that specific test or assignment and the incident will be reported to the office to follow the discipline policy.

Continued Learning Following an Extreme Emergency:
See district website for announcements.

Attendance Policy:
Students are expected to attend class and attendance is checked. The district policy on attendance will be followed. If a student misses a test or quiz, he or she has two (2) days to make up the assessment. If a student fails to make up the assignment/assessment, they will be assigned a grade of zero (0). If the student has an extended illness, medical
documentation will be required to the office and to me, to be allowed to make up any assignment/assessment. Under extreme circumstances, parental conferences via in-person or via telephone conferences will be required to discuss make-up work or alternate assignment(s).

**Make-up Procedure:**
Makeup tests and exams will be given only when the student has a legitimate excuse, medical or otherwise, verified in writing by an appropriate source within one week following the missed test or exam. The instructor will schedule the makeup as soon as possible. Students must take the final the day it is given. Students will be given a grade of “I” (incomplete), in grading periods where there are missing assignment(s)/assessment(s), until the work is make up. **If the work isn’t made up, then the student will be assigned a grade of “F.”**

**Classroom Expectations**

1. Bring necessary **materials** to class every day.

   These include: a marble notebook for journals/class work, three-subject notebook, two #2 pencils, two blue or black pens, a folder for hand-outs. (**Laptops are included as a daily material**)  

2. Enter the classroom quietly and calmly.  

3. Remain in assigned seat throughout the class period.  

4. Refrain from eating candy, food, chewing gum, or having foreign objects in your mouth.  

5. Raise your hand to be recognized.  


7. Do not talk while the teacher is talking.  

8. Individual work is individual work- NO CHEATING! Assistance will be provided when requested.  

9. Electronic devices are not allowed in the classroom. Any electronic device out during class will be taken up by the teacher along with a pink office referral form.  

10. Any tardy will be recorded daily. **YOU MUST BE IN CLASS BEFORE THE TARDY BELL RINGS**
Consequences:

1. Verbal Warning

2. Punishment Work (lengthy writing assignment) and contact parent via phone and (or) e-mail on and documentation will be kept of such contact.


Changes to syllabus
The above schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.
SIGNATURE PAGE

----- ******We have read the information and we understand the policies for this class.

______________________________________________________  __________
(Parent/guardian signature)  (Date)

_____________________________________________________
(Parent’s e-mail)

______________________________________________________  __________
(Student signature)  (Date)

Return to teacher by___________(date)__________________.

Mr. Damon J. Jackson, M.A.T.