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**Civics**

**Fall Semester 2016**

**Mr. Johnston**

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**Course description:** Simply put, civics is the study of citizenship and government. Good government requires educated citizens. **IN FACT**, the main reason for public education is to help young people become more effective citizens. Remember everything the government does affects you directly or indirectly. It is important for **YOU** to be aware of the issues we face as a nation. In order to become better citizens we will be looking at this course through 3 aspects.

**1. Political Science**

This part of the course is concerned with the questions of how people govern themselves and how people interact with politics. Specifically, we will emphasize the decision making process of American democracy. Topics examined in depth include; national, state, and local governments, our political party system, the processes of political behavior, and responsibilities of citizenship. This aspect will encompass the majority of the school year.

**2. Economics**

In this section of the course we will be studying economics from the view of production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. Students will understand how their economic decisions affect them, others, and the world.

**3. Geography**

Geography is the study of people, places, and environments. Students will use their knowledge of geography to help them better understand the world and their relationship to it. We will incorporate the study of Geography throughout the school year.

**Units of Study**

1. A Tradition of Democracy (Founding our government, the U.S. Constitution, rights and responsibilities)

2. The Citizen in Government

3. The Federal Government

4. State and Local Government

5. The American Economy

6. The United States and the World

**Expectations for classroom behavior:**

* Be in the classroom and in your seat PRIOR TO the tardy bell.
* Come to class PREPARED and ready to learn. This includes your binder and writing materials.
* Do not talk while the teacher or another student is talking. Unless otherwise advised, raise your hand before speaking.
* No food or drinks are permitted in class, with the exception of water.
* Cell phones are not permitted to be out in class unless told otherwise.
* DO NOT pack up your things before the bell rings, unless advised to do so.
* Pick up after yourself – and others. If you see trash, pick it up. If something is out of place, return it to where it belongs.
* I expect you to act appropriately and maturely. Know that I am not here to pick on you, nor do I have time to nag you unnecessarily. If I give you a direction, I expect you to follow it without argument. Any questions or problems can be discussed privately after class.

**Materials needed every day for class:**

Class Binder (1 inch should be fine. We will store bell ringers, notes, and graded materials in this binder.)

Notebook paper for binder

Pencil or Pen

Highlighter (Optional)

**Grade determination:**

Your grade will be determined on a weighted system.

**80 Percent:** Tests, Projects, Written Assessments

**20 Percent**: Daily class work, homework, vocabulary, quizzes, etc.

**Homework and Makeup Work Policy:** All make-up/late work for a given unit is due by the day of the unit/chapter exam. Should a student not turn in a homework assignment they will receive a morning detention write-up. Upon the 3rd failure to turn in an assignment the student will receive an office referral to the principal and an afternoon detention.

Student Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_