**Mrs. McClellan’s 7th Grade Civics Class**

**Room 626**

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**Course Content:**

* This seventh grade social studies course will focus on the following areas of study: Civics/ Government, Economics, and Geography. The main content for this course pertains to the principles, functions, and organization of our government; the origins of the American political system; the roles, rights, responsibilities of United States citizens; and methods of active participation in our political system. The course is embedded with strong geographic and economic parts to support civic education instruction.

**Course Goals:**

* Understand the written proposal process and be able to write an action plan for a public policy issue.
* Understand America’s government is based on the rule of law and established by the U.S. Constitution.
* Understand that citizens of the United States of America have certain rights, duties, and responsibilities defined by the U.S. Constitution.
* Understand how citizen participation influences government and political parties, and be able to simulate the election process.
* Understand the role and responsibilities of the media in the political process and how it influences public opinion.
* Understand how a nation’s form of government is determined by its history, culture, and beliefs and be able to compare different forms of government and political states.
* Understand the role and functions of the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches of government and the relationships between them.
* Understand how America’s foreign policy directly impacts our nation and events throughout the world.
* Understand the significant role geography plays in the social, economic, and political development of nations.
* Understand how the U.S. economy is the result of millions of decisions its residents make every day about producing, earning, saving, investing, and spending.
* Apply research, study, critical thinking, and decision-making skills and demonstrate the use of new and emerging technology in problem-solving.

**Course Requirements:**

* Tardiness is unacceptable; students are to be in their seats at the beginning of the period.
* In the case of student absence, it is the **student’s responsibility** to make up any missed work within the allotted time period as outlined in the Student Handbook.
* Appropriate, responsible behavior is expected at all times. This includes having the necessary supplies to be productive in class; being respectful of the learning process of the other students; and actively participating during class.

**Materials/ Supplies:**

* 2 two-pocket/3 pronged folders (any color). The second one will be kept for 2nd semester.
* Colored pencils and/or markers
* Pencils/Pens
* Notebook paper
* **Donations are always appreciated such as tissue, hand sanitizer, copy paper, pencils, pens, color pencils or markers, student dictionaries, colored index cards, any other items for classroom use**

**Assignments:**

* Classwork will be assigned throughout each unit of study.
* Homework will consist of a weekly current event assignment due every Friday beginning Friday, August 19, 2016 (this will be explained in class). Occasionally, work may be assigned to reinforce the concepts that are discussed in class or to finish assignments given in class.
* All work must be turned in **on time**. Current Events may be turned in the next school day for half credit. However, it must be **complete** in order to receive maximum late credit.

**Tests and Quizzes:**

* Quizzes may be given periodically throughout the unit of study. Tests will be given at the end of the unit.
* Vocabulary will be assigned per unit and students will be tested on the words. Students will be notified in advance of all tests.

**Projects:** Students will complete all projects **IN CLASS**.

**Grading Policy:\***

* Classwork 40%
* Current Events 20%
* Projects 15%
* Assessments 20%
* Bellwork 5%

**\*The Civics End of Course Exam counts for 30% of student’s final grade for the year.**

**Academic Honesty Policy:**

Violations of academic honesty policy includes willful or deliberate unauthorized use of the work of another person for academic purposes, or inappropriate use of notes, or other material in the completion of an academic assignment or test. In addition to disciplinary responses, the granting of credit for this assignment may be considered null and void.

**Classroom Policies:**

Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.

1. Treat the room, those in the room, and its contents with respect.
2. Cell phones and all other electronic devices are turned off and are **NOT** visible, unless permission is given by me.
3. School dress code will be enforced.
4. Complete your own assignments and turn in as directed.
5. Arrive on time with proper supplies, ready to **LEARN** and have **FUN**.