**Economics / American Government (2019-2020)**

 *“The first lesson of Economics is scarcity; there is never enough of anything to fully satisfy all those who want it.”* - Thomas Sowell

*“Government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from this earth.”* - Abraham Lincoln

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to economics and explore the American system of government in greater depth, building on what they have already learned in 7th Grade Civics. The first semester will be devoted to Economics and the second semester will be devoted to American Government. The course will reflect the sunshine state standards, which all students in the state of Florida are expected to master. An understanding of economics will help students understand the fundamental forces that drive the actions of all countries, give them insight into what jobs will be available for them in the future. It will also help them understand what it takes to successfully run a business or simply to control and manage their own personal finances. It can also serve as a bridge for those who wish to study Economics in more depth at university and turn it into a career. An understanding of American government will help students understand how the American government works and operates. Students will learn about the principles and traditions that have made our government what it is and they will gain insight into how they can participate and have an effect on the policies and direction of government.



**Textbooks:**  *Economics; Pearson* *& Magruder’s American Government; Prentice Hall*

**Grading:**

Quarter grades will be computed by the weighted averages as shown below:

 Tests & Quizzes….……………………………………………………..60%

Classwork, Notes, Homework, & Participation.…………40%

 TOTAL                   100%

**Tests & Quizzes:**

The length of time for tests and quizzes will vary, depending on the length of the test and quiz. The format of tests and quizzes will also vary, but regardless of the format, there is to be no talking during tests or quizzes. Students who do so will lose points and if the problem persists will receive a grade of zero. If finished early, students will either be given an assignment to complete or will be expected to read silently.

**Classwork, Homework, & Participation:**

Classwork is to be turned into the bin at the end of the class. Homework is to be turned into the bin at the beginning of class on the day that it is due. Students are asked to try their best to turn in their homework before the bell rings so that we can start class immediately. Students are expected to participate in class activities, assignments, and discussions. Every three weeks, students will receive a participation grade. Also every three weeks, students will be expected to turn in their notebooks and will receive a grade for the notes.

**Required Materials:**

Every day, students are expected to come to class with two sharpened pencils, a pen, loose leaf paper, and a notebook dedicated to this class only.

**Classroom Rules:**

The focus for this classroom is respect. Students will:

\*Respect the teacher - The teacher is in charge of the classroom and the learning process. Students must follow teacher directions and show him respect. Likewise, the teacher promises to treat all students with respect and courtesy. If a student ever feels aggrieved by the way the teacher handles something, they are encouraged to speak to him about it at the end of class.

\*Respect one another - The culture in this classroom will be one where everyone is respected and valued. It is imperative that students treat one another with respect and kindness. Students should feel free to express their thoughts and opinions without fear of ridicule. Positivity and kind words to fellow classmates are not required, but they are certainly welcome.

\*Respect the learning process - The primary reason students are here is to learn. Students are not to engage in behavior that detracts from the learning process. Students are not to devalue or disparage academic learning.

\*Respect the classroom - This classroom is less than a year old and it is up to us to keep this room in the great condition that it currently is in. Students are not to eat, chew gum, throw trash on the floor (no matter how small,) or leave items under their desks or around the room.

**Absences:** It is the responsibility of absent students to approach the teacher after their absence to inquire as to what they missed and what they need to make up. If students do not do this, they will receive zeros for any classwork, assignments, quizzes, tests, etc. that the teacher determines it necessary for them to have completed. Also, students who know they will be absent are encouraged to let the teacher know ahead of time. This will make it easier for both teacher and student to see that the student does not fall behind.

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By signing below, I understand the requirements of the course and will be responsible for all the above information provided to me.

Student:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Parent/Guardian:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian (please print):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_