

Mr. Brian Ashley
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Room 236

Parallel Government Syllabus (2020-2021)

Length: Year Course **Credit:** 1.0 Social Studies Credit

Prerequisite: IEP Team Recommendation

Course Description:

Students will examine the foundations of government in the United States of America, the State of Missouri, and our local governments. They will participate in learning activities that will help them to understand our three branches of government and how they work. Included in their learning experiences are in-depth study of our political system and the roles of citizens in this process. The Government course meets the State of Missouri's requirement for a civics course. Students will also focus on IEP goals in the areas of reading, writing, organization, and study skills.

Course Objective:

Students will compare other political systems and philosophies with the democratic republic of our nation. A major goal will be to educate students into well informed citizens who understand the political processes that operate around them locally, statewide, and nationally.

Schedule of Topics:

Semester 1

- Origins of United States Government
- Constitutional Structure and Principles (Including current election processes)
- Amendments to the Constitution / The Constitution as a Living Document
- Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Powers

Semester 2

- Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities of Citizenship
- The Election Process
- The Missouri Constitution
- Participating in the Government

Classroom Policies and Procedures

Textbook:

McClenaghan, William A. Magruder's American Government. Upper Saddle River, NJ. Pearson-Prentice Hall, 2011

- Other textbooks, publications, periodicals, and books will be used to supplement the textbook materials as needed including Newsela.com and ICivics.org. Students are responsible for the quality of the text and are required to return any book/s.

Required Materials:

- Chrome Book (Must have in class every day with a charger)

- Pen/Pencil (Must be brought everyday)

All other materials will be provided by the teacher when necessary.

Expectations:

All students are expected to display the following traits:

We are one class and we will need to work together to succeed. This includes displaying an open mind to your fellow students' opinions and respecting their diversity.

We must respect each other's personal space, beliefs, and right to learn. This includes respecting yourself, fellow classmates, teachers and administrators.

We should be in our seats and ready to learn when the bell stops ringing. (Attend Zoom class sessions on time during distance learning)

We must prepare ourselves to achieve more by aiding others in their pursuit of education and by challenging ourselves.

Never quit on yourself. Take ownership of your actions. Bring the materials you need in order to learn!

Attendance and Tardiness:

Students will be considered tardy if they:

1. Are not completely in the room when the bell rings.

2. Arrive to class late without a pass.

3. The state of Missouri has set instructional minutes minimum requirements for a passing grade.

Students failing to meet the minimum number of in class minutes will not pass the course.

Excused Absence (Verified through SIS):

If a student has an Excused Absence, he/she will be subject to the last work policy instituted by building administration. Policy will be reviewed during the grade level assemblies.

Unexcused Absence:

If a student has an Unexcused Absence for any reason, work will be counted as Unexcused. As a rule, you will have until the End of the Term for 50% Credit.

* Teacher reserves the right to grant up to five (5) school days for extenuating circumstances.

These will be dealt with on a case by case basis.*

Hall Passes:

Hall Passes will not be issued the first 10 minutes of class or the last 10 minutes of class. This includes trips to lockers or other rooms for materials not brought to class.

Dress Code:

Students will follow the district policy regarding student dress. Clothing or accessories that are distracting to the classroom environment are not appropriate. Electronic Devices are not allowed in the classroom. Items that are distracting to the Learning Environment will not be tolerated.

I.D.s must be available

Food and Beverage:

Refrain from consuming food during class time. Water and other beverages with caps are permitted provided they are not a distraction to the learning environment.

Classroom Cleanliness: The expectation is for all students to refrain from littering, vandalizing, or otherwise creating a mess.

Plagiarism and Cheating:

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in our class. Plagiarism is taking anyone's ideas or work and presenting them as your own. This includes copying another student's homework assignments, copying information from the internet, sharing independent assignments via Google Docs or cheating on any assignment in/out of class. Plagiarized assignments will result in a grade of 0. Academic dishonesty such as cheating will not be tolerated and students will receive a grade of 0 for the assignment.

Grading: The grading scale for this course is below:

- A 90-100%
- B 80-89%
- C 70-79%
- D 60-69%
- F 59% or below

The state of Missouri requires an End of Course Exam for US Government classes. The exam will count heavily towards your final grade.

In addition, all students are expected to pass the U.S./Missouri Civics Test.

****Teacher reserves the right to change any of the information in this syllabus****

2020-2021 Schedule

A Day		B Day	U Day	U* Day
1 st period 7:55 – 9:32		2 nd period 7:55 – 9:32	1 st period 7:55 – 8:50	Grade level webinar 7:55 – 9:26
3 rd period 9:37 – 11:08		4 th period 9:37 – 11:08	2 nd period 8:55 – 9:45	1 st period 9:31 – 10:08
5 th period 11:13 – 12:43		6 th period 11:13 – 12:43	3 rd period 9:50 – 10:40	2 nd period 10:13 – 10:50
7 th period 1:18 – 2:55		8 th period 1:18 – 2:55	4 th period 10:45 – 11:35	3 rd period 10:55 – 11:32
			5 th period 12:10 – 1:00	4 th period 11:37 – 12:14
AB Day Lunch	U Day Lunch	U* Day Lunch	6 th period 1:05 – 1:55	5 th period 12:49 – 1:26
12:43 - 1:13	11:35 – 12:05		7 th period 2:00 – 2:55	6 th period 1:31 – 2:08
				7 th period 2:13– 2:55