

MONTEVIDEO MIDDLE SCHOOL

7th Grade

2013 - 14 School Year

Mr. Dennis Ray

Room 209

CIVICS & ECONOMICS

Materials Needed:

Each student will be responsible each day for having the following materials in class: loose-leaf notebook paper, pencil and eraser, pen (blue or black only), folder with pockets, a highlighter, colored pencils, and their assignment notebook. Students will not be issued Civics textbooks. I will maintain a classroom set. Individual textbooks may be checked out on an "as needed" basis.

Overview:

Seventh grade Civics and Economics encompasses major concepts of the foundations of American government, rights and responsibilities of citizens, structure of the three branches of government at the federal, state, and local level. We also study the operation of the U.S. economy, career opportunities and personal finance. Participation in group activities and discussions will be essential. Time will also be allocated for extensive review of the seventh grade Standards of Learning objectives in preparation for the Virginia Standards of Learning test for Civics and Economics. The Rockingham County Civics and Economics Benchmark sheet is attached to inform you of the objectives that are covered during each nine-week grading period.

Grading:

Each nine-weeks' grade is based on the following components:

- 1) Classwork - the activities that are begun in the classroom and relate directly to our course of study (jumpstarts, notes, worksheets, discussions, written responses, drawings and research).
- 2) Participation and Preparation - Participation includes active participation in class discussions and readings from the text and other sources. Preparation refers to coming to class with all the materials necessary for the subject (see Materials Needed above).
- 3) Homework - the activities not completed in class and weekly take-home assignments that build upon the current concept. Students will be given homework after most class sessions. Although students have two days until the class meets again, due to the block schedule, we recommend that the student complete the assignment on the evening it is assigned. Absent students are responsible for checking the Homework Hotline website and checking the assignment board located in the classroom on the morning of their return. It is the student's responsibility to see me for any assignments given on the day missed and to turn in assignments due on the morning the student returns to school. (Do not wait until the next Civics block or the assignment will be counted as late). Questions about a missed lesson may be asked before school or between classes. Unexcused late work will be penalized one letter grade per day and after 3 classes will no longer be accepted for credit.
- 4) Notebooks - Each student must bring a folder with pockets every day to class. Each assignment will be given a number and listed on a notebook checklist on the blackboard and in the student's own table of contents. The contents are then available for the student to use when preparing for tests or quizzes. A cumulative study guide will be issued during the first grading period to aid the student's preparation for the state S.O.L. test. The study guide should remain in the Civics folder for the remainder of the school year.
- 5) Daily Quizzes - Students will be given a short quiz each day. It will usually consist of approximately five questions on the previous block's material. We will not have a daily quiz if a vocabulary quiz or a chapter quiz or a test is scheduled.

- 6) Tests and Quizzes - All tests and major quizzes are announced at least two days before they are administered. The material will be reviewed before the test day; however, it is the student's responsibility to study in preparation for the test. At the end of each nine weeks, the students will be given a cumulative exam. The exam will cover material discussed during the year to that time. {Test/Quiz corrections offer the students an opportunity to receive half of their lost points returned by rewriting each missed question and answer combined as a complete sentence twice each and must be turned in no later than 10 school days after graded copies are returned to the class. Improperly written corrections will not be accepted. Instructions on how corrections are to be done should be found in the student's Civics notebook.}
- 7) Projects – Near the end of each nine-week period a project will be assigned. The type of project will vary, but will always deal with the topic being considered at that time. A project is worth approximately 20% of the nine weeks' final grade. Unexcused late projects will be penalized one letter grade per day and after 3 classes may receive a maximum of 50% credit if done fully and correctly. After 10 school days from the project due date they will no longer be accepted for credit.

Parents: The Homework Hotline is the best method for you to check whether your student has homework so that you may see if the work is complete. You may also check their assignment notebook and then ask to see the completed work. On the Internet go to www.rockingham.k12.va.us/MMS/Hotline.html. Click on the "7 Homework" link located at the top, left of the page. Look at the center column for the teacher's name and then look to the left column to locate subject and the most current date. My assignments are listed for one week at a time.

Progress Reports:

Online access to PowerSchool will provide parents with the ability to check student grades at any time during each nine-week period. Don't forget to get your password from the school office to use this feature. Those parents who do not have access to the Internet may elect to have midterm reports sent home. These reports will be sent home midway through each nine-week period.

Questions and Concerns:

Please call me at 289-3401 if you have any concern about your child's grade or performance. If I cannot take your call, please leave a message and I will return the call as soon as possible. Please let me know if you have an e-mail address where you may be reached if you had not yet given it to the school. I may also be reached by e-mail at the following address: dray@rockingham.k12.va.us

