**Eden Middle and High School Mr. Feasley**

**Room 134 Participation in Government Fall 2023**

**Email: afeasley@edencsd.org Phone: (716) 992-3600**

Welcome to Participation in Government! Participation in Government is a 20-week course for ½ a credit. Passing the class (average of at least 65%) is a requirement for graduation and **You MUST pass this class to graduate from high school!**

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The intent of this course is for students to:

\*Develop a better understanding of how local, state, federal governing organizations work

\*Examine the purpose of government and the role it plays in the lives of citizens

\*Understand how citizens directly and indirectly interact with government at all levels

\*Actively participate so students can become informed citizens in the US democracy

**MATERIAL COVERED**

I. Foundations of Government

II. The Federal Government

III. Political Parties, Elections, and Campaigns

IV. The Media **OR** Foreign Policy

\*In addition, we will be examining various current events and social issues in class on Fridays…

**Supplies**

Pencils

Loose-leaf paper

1 folder

1, three prong binder

Supply pouch

**GRADING**

Grades will be determined by homework, participation, projects, quizzes, tests, and a final portfolio project.

More information is provided explaining these requirements on the classroom drive.

* Homework: 20%
* Projects: 25%
* Quizzes: 10%
* Essays: 20%
* Participation: 25%

For information regarding your portfolio project, pleases refer to the portfolio project. The project will be counted as your final exam and is required to pass this class.

**Grading Policy**

All assignments not handed in at their appropriated time will be marked as late, losing 10%. After one day late, all assignments will be accepted up to five days. Once an assignment is one day late, for the second day only, 20% will be deducted from the grade. Following three to five days, assignments will be deducted 50% of the maximum grade. After five days late, including weekends and holidays, the assignment will no longer be accepted.

**CLASSROOM RULES**

I. **BE ON TIME FOR CLASS** – being on time means being in the room, in your seat, and ready to work when the bell rings. Please remain in your seat until the bell rings. This includes when you should be logged in for your zoom sessions! You must be signed into zoom BEFORE class starts!

II**. RESPECT!** – treat your fellow students, teachers, and the classroom with respect. DO NOT: write on the desks, throw objects, put down fellow classmates, or use.

Inappropriate language. {Each and every student is entitled to his or her opinions and beliefs. You do not have to agree with another person’s point of view, but if you want your opinion to be respected, respect for others should be returned.}

III. **COME PREPARED TO CLASS** – you will need a 3- ring binder with paper and pen (black/blue), notebook, and Chromebook. Failure to show up to class prepared will result in the deduction of your participation grade. Show up to class prepared with the above listed supplies.

IV. **USE CLASS TIME WISELY** – please pay attention and make the most of what time we have each day – do your best to work with others so class is productive.

V**. Clean up after yourself!!!** I am not your personal cleaner, if you bring in food, drinks, etc., be an adult and throw it out yourself

VI. **PLAGIARISM** -All assignments (in class or otherwise) are to be completed by you the student! Academic honesty is a serious concern. Plagiarism is the taking of ideas or writings from someone else and presenting them as one’s own without giving due credit. Plagiarism and cheating are violations of the student code of conduct. Any assignment submitted by a student must be of original authorship. Representation of another's work as his/her own shall constitute plagiarism. Plagiarism is cheating and has academic consequences. A student who plagiarizes will receive a zero on the assignment, followed by a conference with the student, teacher and an administrator, during which disciplinary actions will be discussed. THIS IS INCLUDES USING CHATBOTS SUCH AS CHATGPT!!!!!!!

VII. **IPODS/CELL PHONES/ PED’S** – **are NOT allowed for class unless directed. I will take your phones for the day if you are on them.**

VIII. You must adhere to the safety and healthy standard provided by the classroom and school district regarding the coronavirus. Masks must always be worn and social distance in the classroom, regardless of vaccination status.

\*It will be a course requirement to remain up to date with current events. You will be reading news articles on a regular basis. **Read the news** regularly -Buffalo News, USA TODAY Search the Internet for quality news sources such as CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, British Broadcasting Company (BBC), and other legitimate sources of daily news events**. Watch the news** – local, national: PBS, NBC, ABC, CBS, CNN, MSNBC, or FOX Above anything and everything else, it is expected that you will conduct yourselves as respectable and mature young ladies and gentlemen.

**IX Maturity:** Over the course of this class we will be discussing many ongoing political and social events. I except that, as seniors, you will treat all material with maturity of adults and will be respectful of others and will be receptive of viewing/seeing opinions that differ from your own. We will be discussing current events at may or may not be politically sensitive. You are required, at the very least, to agree to disagree with your peers. In this class we will also watch several videos that may use graphic language and profanity. These videos include but are not limited to: “Last Week Tonight with John Oliver” and “A Late Show with Stephen Colbert”. Regardless of political bias that may or may not be present in these shows, the expectation is that you will watch them for educational purposes. Come to class with an open mind!

**Teacher Availability:**

I will try to be available as often as I can. However, keep in mind that I am only half time here. I will be available to offer assistance to you during periods I do not have class (aka in the mornings up to 7th period). I am happy to offer assistance on homework, projects, review grades, assignments, etc. with you but try to set up an appointment so that way I do not miss you. Try to get in contact with me at least one day beforehand. Either speak to me before/after class or email me.

**Contract:**

I have read the above expectations and course overview and understand what is expected of me in Participation in Government for the school year and I agree to the above classroom policies.

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

**Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Please take this information home for your parent/guardian to read and sign. If they desire, they may make any additional comments on the back of this page. My phone # is 992-3600.

**Parent/Guardian Print Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Fall 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians:

If at any time during the school year you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 992-3600 or at e-mail address: afeasley@edencsd.org

If possible, please include an e-mail address where you can be contacted – it is usually much easier to keep in contact with parents/guardians via e-mail. I am only in my classroom for the afternoons (from 11:15 am to 3pm) and I may miss your call in the mornings. Please read over the course overview and expectations for Participation in Government. Your signature indicates that you have read and understand what is expected of your child this year. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Mr. Feasley