



# 8th Grade Civics Syllabus

Springhouse Middle School

2018-2019

Ms. Sensinger

**Course Description:** This course takes a look at the United States' government and laws. Throughout the school year we will be learning about citizenship, the history of the US government, the three branches of government, and civil and criminal law.

## **Materials Needed:**

**Three ringed binder or folder with prongs**

**Pencils/pens and highlighters**

**Chromebook**

**Headphones for Chromebook**

**Grading Policy:** Grades will be updated on Home Access Center. Parents are encouraged to use Home Access Center, which offers a secure web-based opportunity to track their child's attendance and academic performance. For this course the grading scale is as follows:

A+ 100-97 A 96-94 A- 93-90

B+ 89-87 B 86-84 B- 83-80

C+ 79-77 C 76-74 C- 73-70

D+ 69-67 D 66-64 D- 63-60

F 59 and below

## **Classroom Rules:**

1. Be respectful to EVERYONE.
2. Be on time and prepared for class.
3. Be honest.
4. Be positive and try your best.

**Chromebooks:** It is expected that students bring their charged Chromebook with a pair of headphones every day to class. We will not use the Chromebook every day but the student should bring it every day. Headphones will be used periodically to individually listen to videos online. While we are using the Chromebooks in class the student is expected to be on task. Playing games and doing other classwork during a Social Studies activity is rude. Appropriate action will be taken if students are misusing their Chromebook during class.

**Schoology:** Schoology is used frequently in Ms. Sensinger's classroom. On Schoology students and families can find reminders of upcoming events (both in class and schoolwide), homework assignments, and copies of all coursework. If you need help using Schoology please ask Ms. Sensinger. Each unit we discuss will have its own folder with the corresponding coursework.

**What to Bring to Class:** It is expected that students will bring their Chromebook with charger and headphones, pencil or pen and any notes to class EVERYDAY. Failure to come to class prepared will result in the loss of points.

**Absences:** If a student is absent they are expected to make up ALL the work that is missed. Missed work can be found in the "Missed Work" folder that is hanging in the classroom. It is suggested that each student choose a responsible "buddy" from his or her team to get missed work from. If a student is absent for two or more days, parents may request homework on the second day of absence by calling the main office between 7:45a.m. - 9:00 a.m. The office will make every effort to secure work by 3:00 p.m. Homework can be picked up between 3:00p.m. - 3:30 p.m. in the Guidance Office. If students know they will be absent (I.e. field trip, family vacation) please let Ms. Sensinger know. Work can be gathered before the student leaves.

**Homework Policy:** Homework will be assigned periodically throughout the school year. Assignments will vary in length and points. If a student is absent when homework is due, the assignment will be due the day they return. If a student is absent when homework is assigned, they will be given two days complete the homework when they return.

**Late Assignment Policy:** Late assignments will be accepted for the loss of one letter grade during the first marking period. After the first marking period NO LATE HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED. If a student doesn't have an assignment when it is due, this will result in a zero. All projects and papers will be accepted one day late for the loss of one letter grade. Projects and papers not received by the second day will result in a zero.

**Tests and Quizzes:** Tests and Quizzes will be a mixture of a variety of different questions. A study guide will be handed out before each test. Tests will be announced in class at least three days in advanced. If the student is absent on test day, the test will be made up on the next day 2 or 5.

**Warm-Up Questions:** Everyday students will complete warm-up questions at the start of class. These questions generally will be a review of what they learned the previous day(s). Students are expected to write down ALL questions and their answers. Periodically the questions will be collected and graded. If a student is absent when warm-up questions are collected they will be exempt from the grade. These questions are designed to review course material and gauge student understanding. Answers to these questions are generally found in students' notes.

**Current Events:** An important part of this course is discussing what is currently happening throughout the world and applying it to our study of the government. Students will need to turn in a "current event" twice a marking period. Due dates for will be posted in class on and Schoology two week ahead of time. Articles should be focusing on government based topics not sports and pop culture. Throughout the school year, current events can be handed in late for the loss of a letter grade.

The teacher reserves the right to change the syllabus at any time.

If there any questions please feel free to call or email the teacher.

Email: [sensingerc@parklandsd.org](mailto:sensingerc@parklandsd.org)

Phone: (610) 351-5900 ext. 65165

PLEASE SIGN IN PEN AND RETURN:

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print student name), have read and agree to all terms of the syllabus for the 2018-2019 8th grade Civics class. I agree to try my best and be honest.

Student Signature & Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature & Date \_\_\_\_\_

DUE DATE: FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>