



STAFFORD MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Year at a Glance

Social Studies – Grade 12 – U.S. Government

Course Description:

In **United States Government**, the focus is on the principles and beliefs upon which the United States was founded and on the structure, functions, and powers of government at the national, state, and local levels. This course is the culmination of the civic and governmental content and concepts studied from Kindergarten through required secondary courses. Students learn major political ideas and forms of government in history. A significant focus of the course is on the U.S. Constitution, its underlying principles and ideas, and the form of government it created. Students analyze major concepts of republicanism, federalism, checks and balances, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, and individual rights and compare the U.S. system of government with other political systems. Students identify the role of government in the U.S. free enterprise system and examine the strategic importance of places to the United States. Students analyze the impact of individuals, political parties, interest groups, and the media on the American political system, evaluate the importance of voluntary individual participation in a constitutional republic, and analyze the rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. Students examine the relationship between governmental policies and the culture of the United States. Students identify examples of government policies that encourage scientific research and use critical-thinking skills to create a product on a contemporary government issue. This is a one semester course.

Grading Periods	Unit Names
Grading Period 1	<i>Unit 1: Political Philosophy</i> <i>Unit 2: The U.S. Constitution</i>
Grading Period 2	<i>Unit 3: A Federalist System</i> <i>Unit 4: The Branches of Government</i>
Grading Period 3	<i>Unit 5: Governmental Policies</i> <i>Unit 6: The Political Process</i>