



# Mount Pleasant Central School District

## Government & Economics, Social Studies

*We believe that all students should have a global perspective of diverse cultural, economic and political systems by showing understanding through inquiry, application and analysis.*

Government and Economic Theory examines the foundations and functions of American democracy alongside the principles of micro- and macroeconomics. Students study the Constitution, rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and the workings of political institutions while also exploring economic systems, markets, and policy issues. As seniors, students are expected to engage with the news and current events to deepen their understanding of civics and U.S. institutions. The course emphasizes civic participation, decision-making, and real-world application of government and economic concepts to prepare students for informed citizenship beyond high school.

Unit Title	Month	Content	Vocabulary	Standards	Skills	Big Ideas	Assessments
<b>Introduction to Government: The Constitution</b>	September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- History and foundation of the Constitution</li> <li>- Preamble and American ideals</li> <li>- Case Study: Federalism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limited government</li> <li>- Separation of Powers</li> <li>- Checks and balances</li> <li>- Federalism</li> <li>- Republicanism</li> <li>- Popular sovereignty</li> <li>- Articles of Confederation</li> </ul>	<p><b>FOUNDATIONS of AMERICAN DEMOCRACY:</b> The principles of American democracy are reflected in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and in the organization and actions of federal, state, and local government entities. The interpretation and application of American democratic principles continue to evolve and be debated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Historical context</li> <li>- Causation</li> <li>- Primary source analysis</li> <li>- Application</li> <li>- Debate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the ideals (principles) of the United States of America?</li> <li>- What is the United States best known for?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Federalism debate</li> <li>- American ideal project</li> </ul>
<b>Introduction to Economics</b>	October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity cost</li> <li>- Choice</li> <li>- Scarcity</li> <li>- Production</li> <li>- Incentives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity cost</li> <li>- Choice</li> <li>- Scarcity</li> <li>- Production</li> <li>- Incentives</li> <li>- Benefit</li> <li>- Resources</li> </ul>	<p><b>INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES IN THE PRODUCT AND FACTOR MARKETS:</b> Free enterprise is a pillar of the United States economy and is based on the principle that individuals and businesses are free to make their own</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Application</li> <li>- Inference</li> <li>- Causation</li> <li>- Synthesis</li> <li>- Marginal analysis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is economics?</li> <li>- What makes something valuable?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Zoo design</li> <li>- Factors of production project</li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Service</li> <li>- Profit</li> </ul>	economic choices as they participate in these markets. Individuals buy the goods and services that they desire from businesses in the product markets, and they contribute to producing these goods and services by supplying the resources that they own to businesses in the factor markets.			
<b>Stock Market</b>	October, November, December (10 week simulation)	- Stock Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stock exchange</li> <li>- Bull market</li> <li>- Bear market</li> <li>- IPO</li> <li>- SEC</li> <li>- Diversification</li> </ul>	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY AND THE ECONOMY: Individuals should set personal financial goals, recognize their income needs and debt obligations, and know how to utilize effective budgeting, borrowing, and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investing</li> <li>- Data analysis</li> <li>- Research</li> <li>- Collaboration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the stock market?</li> <li>- What is the importance of investing?</li> <li>- What is the benefit of investing?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stock Market Game</li> <li>- SMG Reflection</li> </ul>

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				investment strategies to maximize well-being.			
<b>Government Structure</b>	November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Federal government structure</li> <li>- State government structure</li> <li>- Federal v. State government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Executive</li> <li>- Legislative</li> <li>- Judicial</li> <li>- Cabinet</li> <li>- Governor</li> <li>- Speaker of the House</li> <li>- Majority Leader</li> <li>- Minority Leader</li> <li>- Majority/Minority Whip</li> <li>- Filibuster</li> </ul>	<b>RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND DUTIES OF CITIZENSHIP:</b> Active, engaged, and informed citizens are critical to the success of the United States representative democracy. United States citizens have certain rights, responsibilities, and duties, the fulfillment of which help to maintain the healthy functioning of the national, state, and local communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research</li> <li>- Critical Thinking</li> <li>- Communication</li> <li>- Social Skills</li> <li>- Self-Management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How can citizens engage with their government?</li> <li>- How have states modeled their government after the federal government?</li> <li>- What is a “purple” state?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Government Structure Presentation</li> </ul>
<b>Rights and Freedoms</b>	December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bill of Rights</li> <li>- Civil Rights</li> <li>- Civil Liberties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bill of Rights</li> <li>- Due Process</li> <li>- Eminent Domain</li> </ul>	<b>CIVIL RIGHTS and CIVIL LIBERTIES:</b> The United States Constitution aims to protect individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research</li> <li>- Application</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How do the rights articulated in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research-based writing prompt</li> </ul>

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			- Amendment Process	freedoms and rights that have been extended to more groups of people over time. These rights and freedoms continue to be debated, extended to additional people, and defined through judicial interpretation. In engaging in issues of civic debate, citizens act with an appreciation of differences and are able to participate in constructive dialogue with those who hold different perspectives.		the Bill of Rights exist in present day society?	
<b>Big Business and Regulation</b>	January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Industry leading companies</li> <li>- Monopolies/Trusts</li> <li>- Government Regulation</li> <li>- Anti-Trust legislation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monopoly</li> <li>- Trust</li> <li>- Efficiency</li> <li>- Horizontal integration</li> <li>- Vertical Integration</li> </ul>	PUBLIC POLICY: All levels of government—local, state, and federal—are involved in shaping public policy and responding to public policy issues, all of which influence our lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research</li> <li>- Critical Thinking</li> <li>- Collaboration</li> <li>- Communication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- When should the government regulate business?</li> <li>- When are</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Modern Monopoly Project Presentation</li> </ul>

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				<p>beyond what appears in the Constitution. Engaged citizens understand how to find, monitor, evaluate, and respond to information on public policy issues.</p> <p>THE IMPACT OF AMERICAN CAPITALISM IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY: There are various economic systems in the world. The United States operates within a mixed, free market economy that is characterized by competition and a limited role of government in economic affairs. Economic policy makers face considerable challenges within a capitalist system, including</p>		<p>companies too big?</p>	



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				unemployment, inflation, poverty, and environmental consequences. Globalization increases the complexity of these challenges significantly, and has exerted strong and transformative effects on workers and entrepreneurs in the United States economy.			
<b>Modern Economy</b>	February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Great Recession</li> <li>- Stock Market Crash</li> <li>- Housing Bubble</li> <li>- Rating Agencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FICO</li> <li>- Mortgage</li> <li>- Short selling</li> <li>- Subprime mortgage</li> <li>- Mortgage-backed security</li> <li>- Collateralized debt obligation</li> <li>- Credit default swap</li> </ul>	American Capitalism: The freedom of the United States economy encourages entrepreneurialism. This is an important factor behind economic growth that can lead to intended consequences (e.g., growth, competition, innovation, improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Historical Context</li> <li>- Data analysis</li> <li>- Critical thinking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What caused the housing bubble before the great recession?</li> <li>- How does the housing market of 2008 compare to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Film analysis of The Big Short</li> </ul>

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				standard of living, productivity, specialization, trade, outsourcing, class mobility, positive externalities) and unintended consequences (e.g., recession, depression, trade, unemployment, outsourcing, generational poverty, income inequality, the challenges of class mobility, negative externalities.).		that of today?	
<b>Personal Finance</b>	March - April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Personal Finance</li> <li>- Budget</li> <li>- Decision Making</li> <li>- Employment</li> <li>- Credit</li> <li>- Taxes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Budget</li> <li>- Credit</li> <li>- Credit Cards</li> </ul>	<b>INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY AND THE ECONOMY:</b> Individuals should set personal financial goals, recognize their income needs and debt obligations, and know how to utilize effective budgeting, borrowing, and	- Budgeting	Individual responsibility in managing personal finance.	Ten week simulation data including, quizzes, hands-on application, and virtual credit score.

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				investment strategies to maximize well-being.  In making economic decisions in any role, individuals should consider the set of opportunities that they have, their resources (e.g., income and wealth), their preferences, and their ethics.			
<b>Public Policy</b>	May-June	Topic of student choice. Public policy and civic participation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public policy</li> <li>- Stakeholders</li> <li>- Interest groups</li> <li>- Lobbying</li> <li>- Federalism</li> </ul>	12.G5 PUBLIC POLICY: All levels of government—local, state, and federal—are involved in shaping public policy and responding to public policy issues, all of which influence our lives beyond what appears in the Constitution. Engaged citizens understand how to find, monitor, evaluate,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research</li> <li>- Primary source analysis</li> <li>- Construct and present evident-based arguments</li> </ul>	In a democracy, informed citizens analyze stakeholders and evidence to evaluate and influence policy at multiple levels of government.	Paper (4-6 pages) with > 5 sources; Slides; and Presentation.

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				and respond to information on public policy issues.			
		-	-		-		
		-	-		-		