



**Dunbar Middle School
Social Studies Department
SS7 Civics & Geography
Ms. Layla Jackson-Clark**

Course Content:

We study civics in school to learn that voting is an important duty of every citizen. Every vote counts in each election, and it is through voting that people can make sure that their voices are heard. Civics education also gives students the knowledge they need to make informed decisions as they listen to politicians' campaign speeches or read news stories about people running for office. They can reference their civics lessons to separate fact from fiction, allowing them to become educated and proactive voters.

Textbook:

Building Citizenship: Civics & Economics and World Culture & Geography

Required Materials:

Binder, Notebook paper, Pen, and Highlighters.

Work to be graded:

- All grades will fall under two categories this year: 60% major grade and 40% minor grade. Each student will be given one 40% grade each week and one major grade every three weeks.

Assignments:

- **Quizzes:** Students will take a quiz on covered material usually at the end of the activity or section.
- **Chapter Tests:** Tests will consist of all class notes and activities leading up to the test including questions pertaining to related maps, graphs, charts, diagrams, and reading passages.
- **Creative Arts Project:** Each quarter students will be assigned a project to complete. Students will be notified in writing of project expectations and due dates with ample time to complete and turn them in. Late projects will be penalized ten points per day.

- **Missed Work and Late Work:** It is the responsibility of the student to make up any missed work. For classwork and homework, late work will be accepted, but will lose 10% of their final grade each day it is late (1 day late = 90%, 2 days = 80%, 3 days = 70%, 4 days = 60%, 5 days late = 50%).

Classroom Rules and Procedures:

1. We will be following the MCPSS pacing guide. All dates and events will be posted with each assignment given and should be viewed in the calendar tab.
2. Student expectations can be found in resources under Classroom Management Plan.
3. All grades will fall under two categories this year: 60% major grade and 40% minor grade. Each student will be given one 40% grade each week and one major grade every three weeks.
4. Major Grades (60%): Unit Tests, Chapter Tests, Quizzes and Quarter Projects
5. Minor Grades (40%): Classwork, Bell ringers, Homework, and CNN 10
6. Tests and quizzes will typically be given through online programs such as Schoology, Quizizz, Socrative or Nearpod.

***Some assignments will need to be written or typed. If a student chooses to write out an answer there will be a place to upload the picture of the hand-written work.**

7. Each class day, I will give direct instruction for the first 30 minutes of class time. The remaining time will be used to help any students with understanding of the lesson or follow-up questions from any other problems the student may have. Additionally, I will be available most days from 1:30-2:20 to discuss any issues a student may have. These meetings can be done via text, phone, email, or video-conference.
8. Students will be counted absent if they do not log onto Schoology each day of the school week. If a student logs onto Schoology and interacts with my

class, they are counted present that day. If they do not interact with my class from 7 a.m.-12 a.m. on any given day, you are counted absent for that day.