

## **Roots of American History/Civics Syllabus 2015-2016**

*“We are not makers of History. We are made by History.”  
Martin Luther King Jr.*

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### ***About the course:***

Welcome to Roots of American History/Civics at Enlightenment School! This year, we will explore the origins of the American democratic system while looking at how the constitution embodies the values and purposes set up by the founding fathers. We will examine the structure and function of our government on a national, state and local level while showing how each level is interrelated. As part of the course, students will also study how to become responsible and knowledgeable citizens who vote and participate in community activities.

I hope that you leave this class knowing more about the world and being better equipped to succeed as a student and beyond. Many challenges lay ahead—but so do many achievements!

Some of the topics that we will be working with this year include:

- Declaration of Independence
- Constitution/Bill of Rights
- 3 Branches of Government
- State and local government
- American Political System (political parties, election process)
- Active Citizenship

### ***Class Expectations***

- Always come to class on time and prepared.
- Utilize and follow the PBIS point system and point sheet
- Common courtesy and respect are a requirement of this classroom. Treat your classmates, your classroom and your teacher with respect.

### ***Attendance Policy – per Waterbury Board of Education***

Twenty Absence Limit. No student may receive course credit for a full-year course after having been absent from that course more than twenty (20) class periods during the school year. These absences will be pro-rated for other than full-year courses and for courses meeting other than five (5) periods per week. All absences in a class will be counted except those incurred while a student participates in school-sponsored activities and/or essential administrative business and/or for an absence that meets the definition of a disciplinary action.

If you are absent, you are responsible for making up all work. It is your responsibility, not mine, to be sure that you have all the assignments you need. All missing assignments will be placed in a file folder at the front of the classroom.

### ***Grading/Assessment – per Waterbury Board of Education***

Your grade each term is determined by your performance in the following categories:

- 10% Class work/Participation: 1) Actively engaged in class. 2) Communicates learning in class. 3) Participates in groups. 4) Graded notebook.
- 5% Homework/Projects: 1) Completes all assigned homework with accuracy.
- 85% Content Knowledge: 1) Meets expectations of curriculum through standards based assessments: quarterly writing prompts; and reports, projects. 2) Meets expectations of curriculum through summative assessments: teacher made tests, quizzes; text driven assessment; and application of spelling/vocabulary. 3) Meets expectations of curriculum through standardized tests.

### ***Supplies Needed for Class:***

Notebook with pockets and pens

### ***Class room routines***

#### ***Entering classroom:***

- Put your PBIS point sheet in the designated bin in the front of the room
- Have notebook, textbook and pen ready
- Complete do-now on the board

#### ***Exiting Classroom:***

- Collect signed point sheet from bin
- Return textbook and notebook to designated area
- Clean up your area
- Be sure to have all assignments, homework, etc with you before leaving

Please sign below and return to school with your child

I have read the information listed above and have discussed it with my  
Child (Name:) \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature Date

Comments:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Contact Information: Please provide your contact information below should you needed to be contacted during the school year.

Phone:  
Address:  
Email: