



M/J Civics and M/J Civics Advanced

Mrs. Fields, Mr. Smith and Mrs. Snead

Quality citizenship requires knowledge and participation

Welcome:

Civics is the study and application of rights and responsibilities of citizens. In order to understand these rights and

responsibilities, this course will include the study of government structures, historical content, economics, and the social as well as geopolitical influences of local, national, and worldwide governments.

Why study civics?

1. To **launch** a lifetime of civic involvement.
2. **Create** opportunities to practice responsible citizenship in our society.
3. To **impact** the values, benefits, and merits of citizenship in our nation.
4. To **promote** civil behavior and discourse.
5. To **encourage** multiple perspectives.
6. To **develop** student awareness of their role as global citizens.

The curriculum includes:

- Unit 1:** Citizenship
 - Unit 2:** Citizens and Politics in Action
 - Unit 3:** Federal Government
 - Unit 4:** State and Local Government
 - Unit 5:** Foundations of Democracy
 - Unit 6:** The U.S. Constitution
 - Unit 7:** Rights of Individuals and Society
 - Unit 8:** The Legal System and the Supreme Court
 - Unit 9:** Participating in a Global Society
- EOC Review and test**
- Unit 10:** Economic Systems
 - Unit 11:** US Geography

The above curriculum units align teaching and learning in classrooms across Pasco County and provide a sequenced, focused curriculum that supports the acquisition of NGSSS in Civics using Marzano's Instructional Framework.

GRADE POLICIES:

Your quarter grade will be based on three areas:

1. Summative assessments: 50%
This category includes: Tests, projects, and notebooks. Evaluations will be given as substantial portions of a unit are completed. The **evaluations may take the form of a written test, a research project, or some form of alternate assessment.** This will enable you to demonstrate in various ways your mastery and understanding of the material we have covered in class. **If a student scores less than 70% on a test, he/she may retake the test at school.** The student may earn up to 70% on a test retake.

You will be keeping **notebooks** for each quarter. This will enable you to keep track of your work and your grades. Each notebook will be graded once each quarter. Since you will be taking an end of course exam, it is important to maintain an orderly notebook for help in reviewing material.

2. Formative Assessments: 10%

This category will include quizzes given to determine how students are performing prior to summative assessments. Since we do a number of group activities in this class, the quiz will indicate your own progress. If you miss a quiz, you will be responsible for making the quiz up. Towards the end of the first three quarters, a quarterly check will be given based on the

standards established for the quarter. These are district developed checks which will be used as an additional aid to determine standards that need extra emphasis by the student.

3. Previewing and processing: 40%

This category includes: classwork and homework. You will receive assignments in class that may require extra time for completion at home. When assignments such as these are given, they will be collected the next day unless otherwise stated. It is your responsibility to get your work in on time. Extracurricular activities are not an excuse for late work. **Work that is not turned in on time will be accepted up until progress reports and then again until the Friday before the last week of the quarter for a maximum of 70% credit.** If you have an excused absence, you will be given ample time to make up any missing assignments for full credit.

End of Course Exam 30% of final grade

A state developed and administered **End of Course Exam** will be given in or around the month of May. This exam is a test of students understanding and application of standards covered throughout the year. The grade from this test, along with the two semester averages will determine the overall grade for the year. Because of the weight of this test, it is imperative that students work very hard throughout the year and perform to the best of their ability while in class. **It is recommended that students keep their papers from the beginning of the year until the end of the year, so that they can refresh their memory in preparation for the end of course exam.**

Progress:

Students and parents are encouraged to check **MyStudent** (<http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/parents>), regularly to keep abreast of their grades. Grades will be updated weekly. Specific Information related to this class can be found at the teacher's or team's website. You may link up to the website by going to [RRMS website](#), and clicking on "Contact" in the header section. Scroll down and find your teacher's website connection.

Academic Integrity Policy:

All work that a student submits will be the original and authentic work of the individual student unless otherwise specified in the assignment. (<http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/ssps/conduct/>)

Pasco County Grading Scale:

| | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|
| 90-100 = A | 80-89 = B | |
| 70-79 = C | 60-69 = D | 0 -59 = F |

Textbooks:

Each class will have a class set of the text, **Civics in Practice**. Students will be able to access their [textbook online](#) at home. Information regarding online access will be provided. The use of online texts is part of the state's legislation which requires that a certain percentage of textbook funds are spent on electronic resources.

Students taking Advanced Civics in addition to the regular curriculum, will be involved in document based questioning activities, in-depth discussions and are responsible for completing a research based project in conjunction with the **National History Day Program**.

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Details specific to Mrs. Snead's class:

Constant Activities

Students will be required to complete daily "Starters" at the beginning of each class period. Starters will be due at the end of the week and will count as one weekly class grade. A few minutes at the beginning of each class will be used to complete this daily activity. Students will be expected to come into class and begin the activity right away. A weekly "Starter" sheet will be available in the makeup file for anyone who has missed class with an excused absence. Starters will also be posted for the week on the class web site. It is the responsibility of students to make up all "Starter" assignments.

A weekly current event will be due each week. Students will be required to read articles and complete the required summary and "Think About It" assignment. It will be due on Friday. Each current event will count as a previewing/processing assignment. When time allows, students who participate in a discussion regarding the articles will receive additional points.

ABSENCES:

When you return from an absence, look at the **Table of Contents** posted on the classroom wall or check our [class website](#). If you are missing any of the pages listed, look in the assignment file box. Complete the assignment and place it in the box marked, "**Papers to Grade**". If you do not complete it and submit it in a timely manner, you will not receive full credit for it.

If you have missed any work, especially a quiz or test due to an excused absence, please be sure to make it up. **A zero will be averaged in as the score until the assessment is no longer missing.**

EXTRA CREDIT

An entry will be kept at the beginning of the grade book which will keep track of any extra homework points earned throughout the quarter. As points are earned, they will be added to this column. Options will be posted throughout the year on the class website.

PROGRESS

Current averages will be given at the end of each week. A grade sheet will be on the back of your Table of Contents Sheet. Your notebook should be taken home and initialed by your parent each weekend. This will help you and your parents keep abreast of your grade in this class. Your grades will also be available on the district's **MyStudent** (<http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/parents>). grade program.

Class expectations:

1. Students are **in class** when the bell rings.
2. **Come into class and begin "starters" right away.** If you are not finished with your starters when I am ready to begin instruction, that means you did not come in and get started when you should have. You are now responsible for staying after class and completing them.
3. **When I am talking, you are listening.** Students who continue to talk to others after their own personal warning or after a class warning, will be given a redirection assignment.
4. **Appropriate language will be used in class.** Students who use unacceptable language in the classroom will be given a redirection assignment. Repeated issues will result in parent contact and office referral.
5. **Students will work quietly and cooperatively with their partners.** If you cannot do this, you will be separated and will work individually.
6. Neither drinks or food are permitted in class unless permission has been given.
7. **Class time is precious** because we are academically engaged from bell to bell. Except for students with previously specified issues, **If you leave class** to use the restroom or get a drink, you will forfeit a minute of your passing time.
8. The **WCD policy** will be enforced in this classroom. We will use devices throughout this class, however when they are not being used for an academic purpose, they are to be shut off and placed in your backpack.

Reminders of Excellence:

1. Students will be given a verbal reminder to stay on task.
 2. Students who continue to be a distraction to the classroom setting will be given some type of consequence, such as a redirection assignment, classroom removal, lonely lunches, or detention.
 3. Parent contact will be made if teacher consequences have not improved inappropriate student behaviors.
 4. Team impact meetings may be held with the student and administration.
 5. Students will be referred to the administration.
- Always remember to be respectful, be responsible, and be a problem solver**

CLASS WEBSITE

A class website has been set up to give you reminders of what we covered in class and allow you access to assignments you may have left at school. All lectures, powerpoints and assignments are available online as well as helpful links and EOC reviews. Go to : <http://connect.pasco.k12.fl.us/ssnead/04-daily-class-agenda/>

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Helpful hints for keeping up with your child's progress:

1. Check the [class website](#) for assignments or any information that will help you be successful.
2. Ask to see their notebook once a week. It should contain all of the work that has been assigned.
3. Have your child set aside time once a week to organize the notebook. If page numbers aren't written down, place the papers in order by the date the assignment was completed or match it up to the title on the Table of Contents sheet
4. Check for review sheets and go over them with your child.
5. Check the weekly grade sheet. It should always be in the notebook. This sheet will list the current average.
6. Check for completed starters and a current event assignment on Thursday evening. Both assignments are due each Friday
7. Have your child attend Wednesday afternoon "help sessions" from 2-2:45 pm in one of the classrooms in the RED hallway.
8. Call me if you're concerned. I'll be glad to talk with you. (774-7361) or contact me at ssnead@pasco.k12.fl.us

Supplies:

- 1 inch binder
- 1 ream of copy paper
- 50 sheet protectors
- pencil/pens
- colored pencils

Resource Links:

RRMS: <http://rrms.pasco.k12.fl.us/>
Check the homepage for links to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
Media Links; <http://mind.pasco.k12.fl.us/>
MyStudent (<http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/parents>).

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|--|
| Name _____ |
| class period _____ |
| My child and I have read the course syllabus and have discussed the importance of keeping up with all assigned work. We both understand the grading policy as well as the late work policy. |
| I will be looking for the grade sheet each Friday and will sign it to indicate that I am aware of my child's academic performance. I am also aware of the electronic grade book located at MyStudent (http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/parents). |
| We are aware that the class has a website, http://connect.pasco.k12.fl.us/ssnead/ that we can go to if necessary for additional support regarding material covered in class. |
| _____ |
| parent signature |
| phone number _____ |
| email address: please PRINT clearly |
| _____ |
| Comments or concerns: |
| _____ |
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**Students,
Please return this portion of the handout tome
before Friday.**