

Fayette R-III

FHS- Curriculum Guide for American Government

Fayette R-III Mission: To educate all students to be ethical, successful citizens.

The Government Learning Goals are based on the Missouri Learning Standards. The Missouri Learning Standards define the knowledge and skills students need to succeed in college, other postsecondary training and careers. This document is designed to make clear what each child should know and be able to do by the end of Citizenship.

Course Description: An emphasis is placed on the need for patriotism, civic-mindedness, loyalty to nation and community, and respect for the law. Students will be encouraged to develop the ability to think critically, to identify and understand both the nation's strengths and shortcomings. The course will provide a solid background for an understanding of the foundations of the American government and of its institutions and how they work. During the course of the year, students are required to take and pass exams on the state and federal constitutions. Homework assignments will cover material that has been presented in class and from the text. Homework is assigned two to three times a week.

Course Rationale: The Social Studies Department of the Fayette School District believes that Social Studies is a diverse subject that encompasses many fields of investigation and interests. History, geography, economics, government, social development, tolerance and multicultural education, decision making and civic responsibility are all a part of Social Studies education. The real life connections are easily recognized, thus the importance of Social Studies in the curriculum is paramount. We recognize the importance of fostering responsible citizens who will be both active in the school and in their community throughout their lives. We believe that there are basic skills and facts each student needs to know. We also recognize that more information exists that can be assimilated. Because of this, it is important to teach students methods of using current technology and outside resources to research information to help them make informed decisions to better participate in the world around them. Students develop new understanding through a process of active construction of knowledge. Students are expected to strive to accomplish the instructional goals, both as individuals and as group members.

Government Student Learning Goals	Standard Alignment
1. Students will identify and give examples of democracies and republics.	PR1.A.e
2. Students will apply the principles of checks and balances, separation of powers, federalism, representation, popular sovereignty, due process of law, and judicial review to historical and contemporary issues.	PR1A.a
3. Students will determine the civic responsibilities of individual citizens.	PR1.A.b
4. Students will assess the changing roles of government with regards to philosophy, limits and duties.	PR1A.c
5. Students will describe the historical foundations of the US system of government as reflected in: Magna Carta, Mayflower Compact, Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation.	PR1.A.d

6. Students will explain the relevance and connection of constitutional principles in: US Constitution, Federalist Papers, Bill of Rights (and other Amendments), and key Supreme Court decisions- <i>Marbury v. Madison</i> , <i>McCulloch v. Maryland</i> , <i>Miranda v. Arizona</i> , <i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> , <i>Brown v. Topeka Board of Education</i> .	PR.1.B
7. Students will describe the structure of government and the purposes of laws (with emphasis on the federal and state governments).	GS2.A.a
8. Students will explain the importance and merits of the following government principles: limited government, majority rule and minority rights, constitution and civil rights, checks and balances.	GS2.A.b
9. Students will explain the functions and styles of leadership including: authoritarian, democratic and laissez faire.	GS2C.a
10. Students will explain how laws and rules are made, enforced, changed and interpreted.	GS2C.a
11. Students will evaluate the roles and influence of political parties and interest groups in government.	GS2C.b

Resources: Textbook-Prentice Hall- Civics: Government and Economics in Action, QUIA, USA Test Prep, Safari Montage
Assessments: Textbook assessments utilizing QUIA, USA Test Prep