

## **CIVICS AND MODEL GOVERNMENT SYLLABUS**

Day 1: Civics and community.

Definition of "government", class discussion about what government does and how it guarantees people's rights. Discuss importance of citizens participating in government, correspondence of rights with responsibilities, and how government only works if people fulfill their responsibilities.

Day 2: The Constitution and separation of powers.

Explain origins of Constitution, discuss preamble, briefly discuss each section. Discuss idea of vertical and horizontal separation of powers, how this was done as a safeguard against undemocratic government.

Day 3: The President and the Executive Branch.

Discuss the role of the president, the functions of the executive branch (departments and agencies), and what the president is/isn't allowed to do.

Day 4: Congress and the Legislative Branch.

Congress and its powers. Discuss Congress's role and functions, how it's structured, what it is and isn't allowed to do, and the differences between the two houses.

Day 5: The Supreme Court and the Judicial Branch.

Discuss how courts work and what their role is, the special role of the Supreme Court, judicial review, and how justices are appointed.

Day 6: Voting and Elections.

Discuss principles of self-rule, representative government, importance of voting. Discuss running for office and campaigning.

Day 7: The Bill of Rights.

Go over the first ten amendments and discuss the rights they guarantee and the historical reasoning for them. Return to the point of rights and civic responsibilities. Also discuss other amendments.

Day 8: State and Local Government.

Talk about vertical separation of powers, the responsibilities of state and local governments, their interaction with the federal government, why participation in them is important.

Day 9: International Relations and Other Countries' Governments.

Discuss how the US interacts with other countries, our relationships and alliances, and international treaties. Also discuss forms of government used in other countries.

Day 10: Civic participation.

Discussion and brainstorming about all the different ways students can participate in politics and engage in their community. Students will write a letter to their representative/senator or another politician.