



13925 14th Street • Dade City, FL 33523
Phone: (352) 524-8400

Principal Jeffrey Wolff

A.P. Sarah Dufresne

A.P. Angel Hernandez

Welcome to Civics

Room. 3-103

Course Objectives:

Civics is an introductory course to how our local, state, and national government works. This course is important to all students because we as citizens of this country should know both your rights and your responsibilities. Overall this course will help prepare you by helping you gain a well-rounded understanding of how the U.S. government works.

Materials List:

Students will need the following materials for class this year:

- Black or blue pens
- Pencils #2
- 2 Composition notebooks (college ruled preferred)
- 3 folders
 - One labeled with your child's name (Portfolio Folder – to be kept at school)
 - One labeled with your child's name (Vocabulary Folder)
 - One labeled with your child's name (Homework Folder – handed back and forth)
- 1 box of markers
- 1 box of colored pencils
- Highlighters

Text:

The texts that we will be using this year includes but is not limited to:

- Yahng, Mark Jarrett Robert. *Gateway to American Government*. Lafayette, CA: Florida Transformative Education, 2015.
- Hart, Diane, and Bert Bower. *Government alive! : power, politics, and you*. Rancho Cordova, CA: Teachers' Curriculum Institute, 2014. Print.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the practice of taking someone else's ideas and passing them off as your own. In every level of education plagiarism is not allowed, thus it will not be tolerated in this class. **Any student caught plagiarizing will be required to resubmit the assignment for a reduced grade.**

Electronic Devices:

To maintain a productive learning environment in the classroom, the **use of cell phones or other electronic devices is prohibited**, unless given permission to use by the teacher. The use of cell phones without permission will result in it being confiscated until the end of the school day.

Grading Policy:

The grading policy is as follows in a weighted scoring system:

- Classwork / Projects – 60%
- Test / Quizzes – 30%
- Entrance / Exit Slips and Homework – 10%

All assignments and homework is due on the due date. Students who do not complete the assignment will be given a one week grace period to make up that assignment for full credit. If it is not completed by the end of the grace period, no credit will be given. Monitoring grades should be a partnership of students, parents, and teachers by using _____. Grades will be updated every week and should be continually monitored.

The Pasco County Grading Scale:

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

As long as you supply the effort, in this class there is no reason that you can't pass.

“Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.” – Nelson Mandela

End of Course Exam:

All civics students are required to take quarterlies and an end of course exam (EOC). Students will take the test at the end of the school year during the first part of May. An exact date will be provided as the test date nears along with parent notification. **Student scores on the exam will count 30% towards their final grade.** As a result of this high stakes test, **it is essential that all students attend school daily and participate fully in all class activities both in school and at home.**

Expectations and Consequences:

It is my expectation to maintain a positive classroom environment that will be conducive for learning at all times. Behavior expectations are as follows:

Expectations:

1. Arrive to class on time with all required materials.
2. Raise your hand when requesting to participate in class discussions.
3. Use accountable talk.
4. Stay in your assigned seat and ask permission before moving about the room.
5. Respect yourself and others.
6. **Refrain from eating and chewing gum**, water is permitted but no soda/juice.
7. Refrain from using cell phones in class (unless expressly permitted)
8. Hats / hoods should remain off the head until the end of class.
9. Earbuds, Beats by Dr. Dre, and other listening devices should be stowed in your backpack.
10. Spinners are not permitted (besides they are so last year...).

Consequences:

1. Verbal warning
2. Seat change / conference with student.
3. Parent contact
4. Parent / Teacher(s) conference
5. Referral to administration

Honesty:

As students of Pasco Middle School, I expect that you adhere to the following honesty code while in my classroom:

"I will not lie, cheat, steal or tolerate those that do."

Communication:

It is important to regularly check the online gradebook. There you will find the student's updated grades and assignments. In addition I created a website where students and parents can find and download daily assignments:

<https://historyisamystery.educatorpages.com/>

Finally, in addition to the progress reports and report cards I will make every effort to contact parents if the student is falling behind. Parents should feel free to communicate with me via email, phone, or in person with any questions or concerns.

Contact Information:

Mr. Ng's Email - ang@pasco.k12.fl.us

Pasco Middle School Website - <http://pms.pasco.k12.fl.us/>

Pasco Middle School - Phone #: (352) 524-8400

Please complete the attached form and return to Mr. Ng by Friday, August 18th.

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PLEASE RETURN TO MR. NG BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 18th

Student's Name: Last _____ First _____

Student's Birthdate: _____

Parent/s Name: _____

Best phone number to reach me at is: (_____) _____

Parent/s Email: _____

Home Language: English ___ Spanish ___ Other: _____

By signing below, I state that I received and understood Mr. Ng's classroom policy for Civics class for the 2017 - 2018 school year.

Student Name: _____ (print)

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____ (print)

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

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