

Middle School Course Outline 8th Grade

Subject: Civics



Introduction:

Eighth grade civics introduces students to the historical development of the government of the United States and engages the students in a survey of important movements throughout the world that attempted to erase intolerance and injustice. Students will gain an appreciation and a responsibility for the role of being a contributing citizen. Through lecture, cooperative group work, discussions, readings, field trips, guest speakers, and writing students will be engaged in the study of civics. The eighth grade students are responsible for the leadership of the Middle School United Nations Day.

Content:

United States Constitution:

The course is designed to study the history, purpose and function of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government at the federal, state and local levels. Students will carefully study the United States Constitution and use this as a framework in their study of important movements throughout human history.

Civil Rights:

Students will engage in units covering the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, intolerance in America, non-violent resistance, and women's history month.

Current Events:

Current, national and international affairs are discussed throughout the year. These affairs will be learned within the context of the United States foreign policy decisions to allow students to explore the role of the United States within the world community.

Materials:

The text, *Overview of Important Facts and History of the Constitution and the Three Branches of Government*, and a variety of websites, video, and audio materials comprise the materials list.

Evaluation Process:

The class meets five times per week and students receive trimester grades based on their performance on test, quizzes, group and individual projects, homework, class participation and written work.