Curriculum Overview
Civic and Economics Grade 7

Course Description:

The civics and economics course will focus on the structure and functions of government institutions at the national, state, and local levels. Through this course the students will gain a respect for the law, and develop a sense of civic duty and patriotism. The role of the citizen in the American political and economic systems will be explored.

Essential Skills/Processes:

The students will--
- compare early historical documents and recognize the fundamental political principles, liberties, rights and values contained in each.
- compare national, state, and local governments including the election process and the policy-making process.
- distinguish between the judicial systems established by the Virginia and U.S. Constitutions.
- explain the structure and operation of the U.S. economic system.
- Participate in decision-making and school and/or community service projects.
- Successful completion of this course will prepare students for the Virginia Standards of Learning Assessment.

Essential Knowledge:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of American citizenship.
   - Definition of citizenship and methods for obtaining.
   - Duties and responsibilities of citizens.
   - Traits and actions of good citizens.

2. Explore traditions of early governments significant in the development of the Virginia and U.S. Constitutions.

3. Study the Constitution to understand further the purposes of the federal government.

4. Fundamental political principles:
   - Rule of law.
   - Limited government.
   - Consent of the government.
   - Democracy and representative government.

5. Understand the separation of powers, the role and functions of each branch, and checks and balances for all branches of government at the state and national level, as well as the role of local government.
6. Identify the methods of amending the U.S. and Virginia Constitutions and has knowledge of the 27 Amendments with emphasis on the Bill of Rights.

7. Demonstrate knowledge of and participate in decision-making, policy-making, law-making, and the political and elective process through simulations school and/or community projects.

8. Gain knowledge on the nomination and promotion of candidates for elective office focusing on the presidency.

9. Review the structure of the federal court system and compare jurisdiction of the federal courts vs. state courts.

10. Understand the difference between the criminal and civil justice system.

11. Recognize the structure and function of Stafford County government.

12. Demonstrate knowledge of how citizens can address community needs by participating in local government through voting, being informed on issues, communicating with government officials, and community service.

13. Understand economic terms such as:
   - Scarcity
   - Economic choice
   - Opportunity costs
   - Supply and demand
   - Price and incentives

15. Define basic economic questions and identify various types of economic systems such as:
   - Traditional
   - Command
   - Free market
   - Mixed

16. Describe the types of business organizations.

17. Define circular flow in regard to money and the role of the Federal Reserve System and the United States government in the economy.

18. Demonstrate knowledge of careers and the influence of technology on the world of work.

Resources:

- Virginia Standards of Learning for All Subject and Grade Levels: [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/index.shtml)
- History and Social Science Curriculum Framework: [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/history_socialscience/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/history_socialscience/index.shtml)
- History and Social Science Standards of Learning Resources: [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/history_socialscience/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/history_socialscience/index.shtml)