

Gwynn Park High School

COURSE TITLE: LSN GOVERNMENT

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am pleased to have your daughter/son in my class and I look forward to a very productive and enlightening year. Please take the time to review this syllabus listing the course requirements and my expectations for all student. If you have any comments or questions please feel free to call me at 301-372-0140. Please read and sign on the lines below as evidence that you understand my expectations. I look forward to receiving your support in helping to ensure your student's success in LSN and on their HSA. Thank you and I look forward to meeting you soon.

- I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course offers an overview of the politics of the American system of government. Among the topics to be covered are the historical developments of American politics, federalism, political participation (voting, interest groups, parties) institutions (congress, the courts, the president) and public opinions. United States, Maryland, and Local governments, focusing on the Constitution. A broad range of topics will be discussed, including the heritage of the U.S. government, functions of the branches of government, political parties, and current events involving these issues. **This course is required for graduation and as preparation for the LSN HSA**
- **AIM:** This course is designed to help students become active citizens by understanding how their government functions and the effects it has on daily life. It is of utmost importance that

students learn how to recognize and exercise their rights as citizens.

● **TOPICS COVERED:**

Unit I: Political and Economic Structures

Unit II: Foundations and Principles of Government and the Constitution

Unit III: Participation in Government

Unit IV: The Legislative Branch

Unit V: The Executive Branch

Unit VI: The Judicial Branch

Unit VII: Domestic and Foreign Policy

***LENGTH OF COURSE:** This course is a one year course

* **PREREQUISITES:** None

II. **INSTRUCTIONAL PHILOSOPHY**

- Instruction will be delivered using various teaching styles to address the varying learning styles of the students in a highly disciplined and structured manner in an attempt to prepare students for the LSN HSA which they must take and pass to graduate in May.
- Students will be assessed using multiple choice, matching, true/false, fill in the blank, short answer (BCR's), and essay questions (ECR's).
- Each student is expected to attend every class, arrive prepared with the required materials from the list provided, participate in class activities, consistently review all LSN material and complete all questions when assigned for homework or classwork.
- Students and parents are free to discuss any concerns with me at an appropriate time.

- III. MAJOR COURSE PROJECTS: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME
- IV. ASSESSMENT PLAN & GRADING FACTORS
- *TEST/QUIZZES 35%
 - *BENCHMARKS 25%
 - *CLASSWORK 20%
 - *HOMERWORK 20%
 - *EXTRA CREDIT TO BE DETERMINED DEPENDENT UPON THE ASSIGNMENT
- V. PACING GUIDE: SEE ATTACHMENT
- VI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
- *Will be given out by the teacher on separate documents as needed
- VII. TEXTBOOK: United States Government Democracy in Action by Glencoe, McGraw-Hill
- VIII. SUPPLIES & MATERIALS
- *LSN Textbook
 - *LSN Notebook (three ring)
 - *Notebook Dividers
 - *Loose-leaf paper (no rough edges)
 - *Blue or Black Ink Pens
 - *Two Folders with pockets or metal prongs
 - *Dictionary
 - *Tissue
- IX. RULES, PROCEDURES, EXPECTATIONS
- *ID badges must be worn around the neck at all times
 - *Be on time and in your seat before the tardy bell rings-if you are late you must have a pass.
 - *Be prepared for class-You must have textbook, notebook, paper, pens, folders, homework.
 - *Warm-ups are to be completed no later than fifteen minutes after the tardy bell. There will be no exceptions. Warm-ups cannot be made up if tardy for class.
 - *Raise you hand if you have something to say. Only one person will be speaking at a time. At that time everyone else should be politely paying attention. Manners are the hallmark of a civilized society.

*Do your own work-copied work is considered cheating and will be given a grade of 0.

*Homework is due at the beginning of class, not the middle, nor the end. It will not be accepted late.

*Follow all school rules and classroom rules-gum chewing, eating, drinking, CD players, Cell Phones, etc. will not be tolerated.

*Take care of your personal needs before class or after class. No passes during the first fifteen nor the last fifteen minutes of class.

*Always treat all others with respect and kindness.

*No abusive or profane language

PARENT SIGNATURE

TEACHER SIGNATURE

STUDENT SIGNATURE

ADMINISTRATOR