**Honors Civics and Economics**

**Mrs. Cassadi Walden**

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<http://mrswaldensclass.weebly.com/>

Welcome to Honors Civics and Economics! I am excited about the new semester, and hope you are too. Civics and Economics is a challenging course covering a wide range of material, including government, the legal system, personal finance and economics. Civics and Economics is also tested at the state level. Doing well in this course requires good organization, strong study skills, hard work, and time. Please be ready to make these commitments.

**Course Description** (taken from Durham Public Schools’ Program of Studies):

This course teaches the skills and knowledge necessary to become responsible and effective citizens in an interdependent world. It provides a framework for understanding the basic tenets of American democracy, practices of American government as established by the United States Constitution, basic concepts of American politics and citizenship, and concepts in macro and micro economics and personal finance. The course is organized under three strands – Civics and Government, Personal Financial Literacy and Economics. Students will gain a practical understanding of legal, political, and economic systems that affect their lives as consumers and citizens.

**Course Goals and Objectives**: “As informed decision-makers, students will apply acquired knowledge to real life experiences. When studying the legal and political systems, students will become aware of their rights and responsibilities and put this information into practice.”

**Classroom Policies and Procedures**

* **Late Work:** If a student does not complete an assignment, the assignment can be turned in the following day. The highest grade a student can earn on a late assignment is a 70. If an assignment is turned in after its unit is finished (for example, if a student turns in an assignment from Unit 2 while the class is studying Unit 4), the highest grade a student may earn is a 50. I reserve the right to require alternative assignments for make-up work, particularly if the original assignment could be easily copied from a fellow student. **I will not accept late binder checks, journal checks, and vocabulary log checks.**
* **Absences and Make-up Work:** Attendance is crucial in this class. Do not be absent except in the case of a true emergency. Homework is counted for a late grade if it is not in my box *before class begins*. Homework assignments will be posted on my board daily. You should record these assignments in your homework log section of your binder. I will also update my website with homework information each day. Find an “absent buddy” early in the year – someone whom you can call and from whom you can borrow notes, etc. Please understand that any work known about before a missed day is due the day you return to school.
* **Grading Issues and Academic Integrity:** Cheating in all its forms (copying homework, sharing test questions/answers, “borrowing” information without citing it, using outside sources to complete work that should be your own, and plagiarizing internet papers) is the worst kind of academic and personal dishonesty. Don’t do it. We will talk further about this issue.

GRADING SYSTEM: You will be able to access your grades online at www.engrade.com. This is a free and secure website which empowers you to track your progress in this class. Periodically, I will be asking you to check your grades on the site. Parents, you may sign up for a separate account to track the progress of your child and to send/receive messages directly with me, the teacher. I am sure you will find that this system is very user-friendly. To access grades on engrade.com, simply go to the webpage www.engrade.com. Then click on “Parents and Students”. From there, click on “Sign up for a free account”. Then, follow the prompts. When it asks for the access code, it will be engrade-xxxxxxxx-(alpha code in caps). You will have a different access code for each of your teachers if they use this grade program. Please feel free to email me with any questions or concerns. **Students/Parents are 100% responsible for accessing their grades to find out information.** NO PROGRESS REPORTS WILL BE PRINTED WITHOUT A LETTER REQUESTING SUCH to reduce our paper consumption.

* **Expectations for Participation:** Students should come to class prepared and ready to learn. It is expected for each student to *participate* in class discussions as an active and respectful member of the learning community. **Remember: Participation is a large part of your overall grade**. A rubric for class participation grades is available upon request.
* **Hall Passes:** Students are not permitted to leave class during the first fifteen minutes or the last fifteen minutes. Only one student is allowed out of the room at a time. You will receive four hall passes for the semester. Students may not leave the room, unless they use one of their hall passes. If a student *needs* to leave the classroom more than four times, they may make that time up in lunch detention.
* **Classroom Rules**

1. **Be in your seat and prepared to start class when the bell rings.**
2. **Raise your hand to speak or to ask permission to leave your seat.**
3. **Use respectful language when speaking to the teacher, your classmates, and guests.**
4. **Maintain appropriate personal space.**
5. **Keep all electronics off and out of sight, except when authorized.**
6. **No food, drinks, or gum.**
7. **Remain seated and on task until I dismiss you.**

Additionally, all City of Medicine Academy and Durham Public School policies are enforced in my class. **Consequences will be determined by the Behavioral Consequences Matrix, found in the City of Medicine Academy Handbook.**

**\*\*\*A separate handout will be provided with a list of required supplies or this course.\*\*\***

I hope you find this syllabus helpful for you as you begin a new semester. I look forward to working with you.

**Students: Tear this page off of the rest of the syllabus. Do NOT turn the entire syllabus back in to me. You will need it!**

**Student/Parent Contract**

I have read the information on the Course Syllabus and Policies Handout. I fully understand Mrs. Walden’s expectations of me for this semester.

**Parent/Guardian Printed Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent Preferred Contact Number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent Email Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**I prefer to be contacted by (Circle one): Phone E-mail Engrade Messages**

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Student signature date

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Parent/Guardian signature date

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I look forward to working with your daughter or son this year. In recognition of the importance of your history and relationship with this young person and as a means of facilitating my relationship with her or him, would you please take a few minutes to respond to the question below? Feel free to use the back of this sheet. You may also write your comments on a separate sheet of paper and seal them in an envelope. Thank you for helping me get to know someone about whom you care so deeply.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cassadi Walden

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**From your perspective, what do you wish I already knew about your daughter or son to help her/him grow this year as a thinker, reader, writer, and person?**