

WEST JEFFERSON HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT CURRICULUM STRANDS – SOCIAL STUDIES

GRADE 8

CIVICS AND GOVERNMENT

I. Principles and Documents of Government

- a. Purpose of Government
- b. Rule of Law
- c. Principals and Ideals that Shape Government
- d. Documents and Ideals shaping United States Government
- e. Rights Created by the Pennsylvania and United States Constitutions
- f. Use, Display and Respect for the United States Flag
- g. Contributions of Framers of Government
- h. Sources, Purpose, and Functions of Law
- i. Individual Rights and the Common Good
- j. Role of Courts in Resolving Conflicts
- k. Speeches and Writings that Impact Civic Life

II. Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship

- a. Civic Rights, Responsibilities and Duties
- b. Relationship Between Rights and Responsibilities
- c. Sources and Resolution of Conflicts
- d. Political Leadership and Public Service
- e. Ways Citizens Influence Decisions and Actions of Government
- f. Consequences of Violating Rules and Laws
- g. Competent and Responsible Citizen

III. How Government Works

- a. Structure, Organization and Operation of Governments
- b. Branches of Government
- c. How a Bill Becomes a Law
- d. Services Performed by Governments
- e. Role of Leaders in Government
- f. Elements of the Election Process
- g. Protection of Individual Rights
- h. Impact of Interest Groups on Government
- i. How and Why Governments Raise Money
- j. Influence of the Media
- k. Systems of Government

IV. How International Relationships Function

- a. How Customs and Traditions Influence Governments
- b. Role of United States in World Affairs
- c. Impact of United States on the Political Ideals of Nations
- d. How Foreign Policy is Developed and Implemented

ECONOMICS

- I. Economic Systems**
 - a. Similarities and Differences in Economic Systems
 - b. Expansion, Recession, and Depression in the Economy

- II. Markets and the Functions of Governments**
 - a. Market Transactions
 - b. Costs and Benefits of Competition
 - c. Economic Institutions
 - d. Changes in Supply and Demand
 - e. Forces that Can Change Price
 - f. Sources of Tax Revenue
 - g. Economic Roles for Governments
 - h. Public Goods
 - i. Costs and Benefits of Taxation

- III. Scarcity and Choice**
 - a. Scarcity and Limited Resources
 - b. Economic Reasoning of Choices
 - c. Allocation of Resources

- IV. Economic Interdependence**
 - a. Specialization
 - b. Trade
 - c. Implementation or Reduction of Trade Barriers
 - d. Geographic Patterns of Economic Activities

- V. Work and Earnings**
 - a. Factors Influencing Wages
 - b. Labor Productivity
 - c. Distribution of Wealth

HISTORY

- I. Historical Analysis and Skills Development**
 - a. Chronological Thinking
 - b. Historical Comprehension
 - c. Historical Interpretation
 - d. Historical Research

- II. Pennsylvania History**
 - a. Contribution of Individuals and Groups
 - b. Documents, Artifacts, and Historical Places
 - c. Influences of Continuity and Change
 - d. Conflict and Cooperation among Groups

- III. United States History**
 - a. Contribution of Individuals and Groups
 - b. Documents, Artifacts, and Historical Places
 - c. Influences of Continuity and Change
 - d. Conflict and Cooperation Among Groups

- IV. World History**
 - a. Contributions of Individual and Groups
 - b. Documents, Artifacts, and Historical Places
 - c. Influences of Continuity and Change
 - d. Conflict and Cooperation Among Groups

GEOGRAPHY

- I. Basic Geographic Literacy**
 - a. Geographic Tools
 - b. Location of Places and Regions
 - c. Geographic features effect cultural development

- II. The Physical Characteristics of Places and Regions**
 - a. Physical Systems and Properties

- III. The Human Characteristics of Places and Regions**
 - a. Population
 - b. Culture
 - c. Settlement
 - d. Economic Activity
 - e. Political Activity

- IV. Interactions Between People and Places**
 - a. Impact of Physical Systems on People
 - b. Impact of People on Physical Systems