

Mrs. Shannon

Rm 211

8th Grade

Advanced Civics



Welcome to 8th Grade Civics! I expect that each student in my classroom will give his or her best effort. While we explore what it means to be a US citizen, I expect that you will complete your assignments and that you communicate with me if you need assistance. I am here to help you in any way I can.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any problems, questions, or concerns.

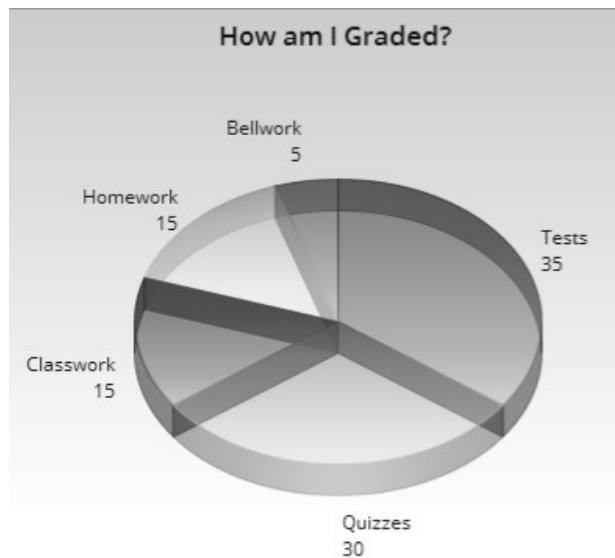
I request that both students and parents sign and return the last page of this letter indicating that you have read the procedures and agree to cooperate with them.

ASSIGNMENTS ONLINE!



If you forgot to write down your homework or you missed class, look on **ESD Gradebook** and choose the calendar feature. I will load all assignments, tests, and quizzes for the week in the gradebook. Choose the calendar feature and plan your entire week! All classes will be listed in one helpful calendar!

Blackboard Learn—Will have the entire lesson that you missed the day you were absent. Updated daily, Learn has the powerpoint notes, list of materials, and the directions for that day. It can also include videos we watched or other fun activities.



GRADES

Grades will be available in the **ESD Portal**—students and parents should have their own individual log ins.

*Please make sure your email is correct on this site. I send weekly e-mails to keep you up to date.

CLASS MATERIALS:

- 1 or 3-subject spiral notebook. (just depends on how big you write)
- 2 blue duo-tang folders
- 2 pens or pencils
- 1 highlighter
- Ear buds during computer days (not required)

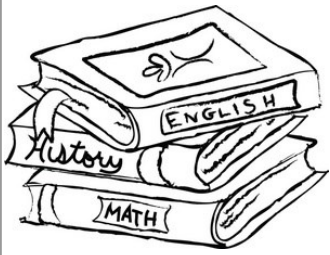
HOW TO REACH ME:

- ElizabethShannon@ssas.org
- (941) 330-1855 ext. 1211

Keep this in your class folder.

CLASS

RESOURCES



- **Blackboard Learn.** has all online readings, videos, etc that we will be using. This is also where Blog Assignments will be done.
- **Textbook: Florida Civics, Economics, and Geography** from McGraw Hill. We rarely use this resource (the Civics curriculum has evolved past the text), and any pages we DO use will be copied directly onto the Blackboard Learn page.
- **Workbook.** This will be a source of extra credit this year.
- **iCivics.** Website devoted to engaging civics games and activities. No need to sign-up, I've already created a log-in for you :)

MAKE UP WORK

The student has one school day to make up work for each school day excused absence (day for a day). For example, the student is out for 4 school days then the student has 4 school days to turn in the make-up work. Work can be made up for excused absences, out-of-school suspension, religious holidays, and excused tardies.

Students should use the extra copies bin and assignment calendar in the classroom to find missing work/ make up work.

Planned trips and holidays may not apply—try to do make up work BEFORE your trip. Remember to email the principal for approval of trips.

Parents may call the front desk to request make up work for any absences over two days.

Long term projects and tests scheduled before the absence do NOT apply. Students will sit for a test the day that they return.

LATE WORK

Students must turn in work when it is due so that they do not lose points.

Late work will lose 10% each day that it is late.

Long-term Projects will receive harsher penalties for tardiness. They will be accepted, however, for at least a 50% before the quarter ends.

Plagiarism or copying work will result in a zero and a detention.

Engage, Enlighten, Empower

YEAR PLAN

Quarter 1:

- How to Read the News, Citizenship & Immigration, Foundations of U.S. Government Ideas and Influences, Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation

Quarter 2:

- Political Parties, Public Media and Elections, The Constitution, The Bill of Rights, Civil Rights Amendments and Movements

Quarter 3:

- The Legislative Branch, The Executive Branch, the Judicial Branch, Landmark Supreme Court Cases

Quarter 4:

- State and Local Government, Foreign Policy, Comparative Governments, EOC Review, Economics

**DONATIONS ARE
APPRECIATED!**

- Tissues
- Paper Towels
- Highlighters
- Notebooks

Give Me Five:

1. Eyes on Speaker
2. Quiet
3. Be Still
4. Hands Free
5. Listen



PROCEDURES, PROCEDURES, PROCEDURES

- Enter class quietly and sit in your assigned seat.
- Put all required materials on your desk.
- Write your homework in your agenda book.
- Begin bellwork.
- Wait for further instructions from your teacher.
- Do not pack up early, the teacher will dismiss you.
- Turn in all work in your class period's wall bin.

RULES & CONSEQUENCES

Rules

- Show respect to teachers, students, and other's property.
- Follow all directions.
- Raise your hand to be called upon.
- Be prepared to learn every day.

Consequences

1. Warning (silent look or verbal)
2. Write the Rules
3. Behavior Essay w/ Connect Ed
4. Detention after Intervention Specialist Consultation w/ Parent Email
5. County Referral



**Did you write your name
on your paper?**

	First Name Last Name
	Period
Assignment Title	Date

RESTROOM/ POTTY / TOILET

How to Leave the Classroom

1. Write a pass in your agenda, **on today's date and in pen.**
2. Write destination and time.
3. Bring to your teacher silently.
4. They will sign it
5. Sign the sign out by the door
6. Leave quietly

Welcome to My Class!

Dear Eighth Grade Parents and Students,

Welcome to a new school year! In this letter, I would like to introduce myself a little bit more. I'll be asking you to tell me more about yourself during this week.

I was born in St. Petersburg, Florida and moved to Sarasota when I was three. I went to Philippi Shores (K-1) and then Incarnation School (2-8). I'm a graduate of Riverview High School's International Baccalaureate Program. **Go Rams!** And then I graduated from the University of Florida – **Go Gators!** – with a dual-Bachelors in both English Literature and Cultural Anthropology. I also received a minor in East Asian Literature and Languages with an emphasis on Japanese. I moved up to North Carolina to be with my mother and started substitute teaching for a while in Chatham County, North Carolina. Then I decided to come back to Sarasota and get my teaching certification at the State College of Florida. **Go Manatees!** I am currently working towards a Master in Educational Leadership: Curriculum Leadership at the University of Florida. **Go Bulls!** Much of my family still lives in Florida, including my father and my little sister, Jackie, who also graduated from the University of Florida in the Department of Journalism. Now she works in Washington DC!

I've taught Beginners Japanese Culture and Language for middle school, 7th grade American History, 6th grade World History, 6th grade Language Arts, and 7th grade Civics and Civics Adv and now 8th grade Civics and Civics Adv. This is my eighth year with SSAS, and I love this school. **Go Tigers!** I am also the proud sponsor of Anime Club and invite all to join who are interested in Japanese media, language, and culture! It's every Friday from 4:00–5:30 after school.

Now you may be wondering about my teaching style. I like to be concise and go over everything step-by-step. We will have interactive notebooks full of all of our notes and documents that we use with our textbook and other resources. *I like to keep all work accessible to every student even if they can't physically be in the classroom that day.* **Class notes will be posted on Blackboard Learn every day.** This includes any worksheets, assignments, and videos we'll be working on that day. Of course, I'll also have hard copies of everything in the classroom for those students without internet or printer access.

There's one more important topic I'd like to address. Civics is a fascinating subject. We will be talking about politics, economics, and service projects we can do around the community. Part of the curriculum is based around looking at current events today, including elections and current politics. However, I want to be very clear that I will **never** tell a student to be a part of any particular political party. If I did that, I wouldn't be doing the job that I set out to do this year. My goals are as follows:

- 1) That every student thinks for themselves about government and politics.
- 2) That each student knows they can have an impact on their society.
- 3) That every student finds their individual voice about current day issues.

Parents, I need your help to accomplish these goals. I will never tell the students my opinion about a topic, but I definitely encourage you to share your thoughts with your child. Please help me to create a safe place of understanding as your student learns about their freedoms, rights, and responsibilities as a citizen of the United States.

And again, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. You can email me at ElizabethShannon@ssas.org or call me at (941) 330-1855 ext. 1211.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Shannon

Contract and Information Sheet

Student Name: _____ Class Period: _____

I, _____, have thoroughly read, understand and accept the expectations set forth for success in this classroom. My parent(s)/guardian(s) have also read, understood and accepted the terms set forth.

Student Signature Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature Date: _____

These expectations are due by Wednesday. This will be due at the beginning of class for a homework grade and must contain both a parent/guardian and student signature.

CONTACT INFORMATION

1 st Guardian Name:	2 nd Guardian Name:
E-Mail Address	E-Mail Address
Home Phone#	Home Phone #
Cell Phone #	Cell Phone #

Return this page to your teacher by Wednesday.

Parent Notes

Please feel free to leave a comment on any strengths of your child and/or any concerns you might have for this year:

Remember To:

- ◇ Get your email set-up on gradebook so you can receive assignment deadline and test reminders.
- ◇ Contact me if you have ANY questions. Seriously. I welcome dialogue between myself and parents. Together we will make this a great year.