



# Course Syllabus

SY 2015-2016

**COURSE TITLE:** Civics and Economics (Middle School)

**DESCRIPTION:** Civics looks at the role of citizens and the way in which they form governments. Students study the documents which are the foundation of our government, especially the Constitution and the Bill of rights. The three branches of government are closely investigated. The role of the citizen is given important consideration, along with the importance of the legal system that helps to ensure a democratic process. Students are required to focus on both the responsibilities and rights of citizens. During this course students also study basic economic principles, such as scarcity, cost, incentives, and opportunity cost. The US economy provides the focus for the economic components of the curriculum, yet a comparison of world economic systems is part of the course of study. In both civics and economics units, critical thinking skills are stressed through cause-effect and problem-solving activities.

**MAIN TOPICS:**

Familiarity and Analysis of Primary Documents	The Role of Finance
Foundational US Government Documents	Virginia, US in World Economy
Citizenship Process	The Government and the Economy
Duties of Citizenship	Consumer and Property Rights
Characteristics of Good Citizenship	Career Opportunities
Levels of Government	Service Learning
Political Parties	
Role of the Media	
Campaigns and Fundraising	
Voter Participation	
Electoral College	
Separation of Powers	
Amendment Process	
Legislative Process	
Interest Groups	
The Judicial System	
Economic Concepts	
Types of Economies	
The US Economy	
Businesses and Markets	



\*There is a Virginia Standards of Learning Test at the conclusion of this course.