**Honors American Government Syllabus**

2023 – 2024 School Year

*Quick Info:*

Instructor: Mr. Gaudet

Email: gaudet.blake@westada.org

Phone #: 208-861-1826

*Overview:*

Honors American Government will be an opportunity for students to start taking their role as a United States Citizen seriously. Students will learn about the creation, structure, and implementation of our Constitutional system of government, and utilize that knowledge to become a more productive member of our Republic. This class is both a **Government** and a **Civics** course, and learning the rights and responsibilities of citizenship is paramount to a student’s success.

*Objectives (Students Will Be Able To):*

1. Identify the underlying philosophies behind the U.S. Constitution.

2. Explain the operation of the different institutions within our constitutional democracy.

3. Identify issues that require political action.

4. Act on their responsibilities as citizens of the United States

*Evaluation*

Students will be evaluated in two different ways throughout the year.

1. Formative Evaluations – These are assignments that will be completed FOR LEARNING. A student will receive feedback on these assignments from the instructor, and that feedback will inform the student on how well they are grasping course material. While they will not count towards their final grade, failure to complete these assignments will result in missing opportunities for feedback, and will likely harm their chances of succeeding on the summative evaluations.
2. Summative Evaluations – These will primarily consist of tests and performance tasks (such as the We the People Competition), where students will be expected to demonstrate their knowledge of the previous unit or multiple units. These evaluations will count towards their final grade.

*Major Projects*

1. **We the People** – The first semester will be dedicated to preparing for the Idaho State We the People Competition. The competition is a simulated congressional hearing, and students will be expected to answer high level questions about our nation’s constitution. The competition will take place on in early February, 2024. Their final practice run for the competition will act as their final exam for the first semester.
2. **Citizen Action Project** – Students will find an opportunity to experience government at the local level within their community. More information on what Citizen Action Points are, how many need to be obtained throughout the year, and how they can be obtained will be provided soon.

*Necessary Supplies:*

1. Pens, pencils, etc.
2. 1 Notebook
3. Electronic device with word processing and internet access
4. Headphones

*Rules:*

1. Try hard and be kind.
2. Be curious, not judgmental.
3. You must participate in class discussions.
4. Mr. Gaudet will accept or refuse late work at his discretion.
5. During discussions or peer presentations, listen to your classmates intently and be prepared to ask questions.