

# Welcome to Civics

**Mr. Rick Hord, room 402**

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Dear Parents & Guardians:

I am honored to have the opportunity to help your child learn how America works. It is my earnest hope that your son or daughter will discover civics is one of their favorite subjects.

During the 2020 - 2021 school year, we will explore these topics (and more):

- Citizenship & types of governments
- Colonial government & The Declaration of Independence
- The US Constitution & Bill of Rights
- Enumerated, Reserved, and Concurrent powers
- The Legislative, Executive & Judicial Branches
- Checks and Balances
- Political Parties & Elections
- Public Opinion & the watchdog role of media
- State & Local governments

A take-home textbook is optional (ask and ye shall receive). I will be showing students how to access the textbook and additional material on the McGraw Hill ConnectED app on Classlink. My own class website and Planbook can be accessed via links on the WBMS website. This year, Focus is a new platform that will also prove very useful.

Usually, the quickest and best way to reach me is by email at [hordw@santarosa.k12.fl.us](mailto:hordw@santarosa.k12.fl.us).

When your daughter or son enters the classroom, she or he will be entering the “Republic of Woodlawndia.” Attached is the constitution of this make-believe sovereign state, which serves as our classroom policy and procedures guide.

With Best Wishes,

Rick Hord  
Civics Teacher

**Civics grades 2020-2021**

**40-percent: Tests**

We normally have one test per chapter, for a total of 3-4 each grading period. Tests are primarily multiple-choice, and administered online when laptops are available.

### **30-percent: Quizzes**

Quizzes are given near the beginning of each chapter, covering vocabulary terms. They are shorter than tests, taken on paper, and are graded in class if time permits.

In most cases, students will know their test or quiz score before the end of the class period.

➤ **Grade recovery for low Test and Quiz scores**

A failing (<60) score may be improved to 60 by making handwritten corrections: for each missed item, write the complete question and complete correct answer on plain paper; turn in the corrections before the end of the grading period.

### **20-percent: Classwork/homework**

We will seldom have specific assigned homework. Any unfinished classwork automatically becomes homework. Students who miss a day should check Planbook to make up any missed items. Graded Classwork/homework follows this scale:

- 100 – work is complete and satisfactory
- 75 – work is not complete or not properly done
- 50 – only a minimal effort is apparent
- 0 – no work has been submitted

### **10-percent: Written or oral report on one or more of the standards**

Each student will be summarize one or more of the Benchmark Standards that have been covered in class near the end of each grading period. This process will be discussed in class, and is intended to review the material in preparation for the state EOC.

### **Civics is an “EOC Class”**

The EOC (End Of Course) test, administered near the end of the school year, is a statewide standardized test similar to the familiar FSA. *The EOC is very important.* Unlike an FSA, an EOC counts as part of the final class grade. For civics, each semester grade counts 35-percent and the EOC score counts 30-percent of the final grade.

# Constitution of The Republic of Woodlawndia

*We the people of Mr. Hord's Civics Class, in order to **promote academic growth, inspire character, develop problem solvers, and empower HEROES**, do ordain and establish this Constitution of the Republic of Woodlawndia.*

## ARTICLE I – Form of Government, Sovereign power

The Teacher is the Sovereign Head of State and exercises all Executive, Legislative, and Judicial authority in Woodlawndia. The Sovereign Power of the Republic of Woodlawndia is limited by Constitution and laws of the United States, the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, the rules and policies of the Santa Rosa County School District, and the policies and procedures of Woodlawn Beach Middle School; otherwise, the teacher's sovereign power is absolute.

## ARTICLE II – Classroom Rules

- ✓ Treat others with respect at all times
- ✓ Insure domestic tranquility (*keep the classroom peaceful*)
- ✓ Promote the general welfare (*help promote a productive learning environment*)
- ✓ Have an open mind (*listen to others; don't insult others for having a differing opinion*)
- ✓ Observe all school, district, and state rules

## ARTICLE III – Boredom Prohibited

Boring classes are hereby declared illegal and unconstitutional in Woodlawndia. Every citizen must share in the responsibility to prevent any violation of this fundamental rule by asking appropriate questions, presenting ideas and suggestions, and actively participating in discussions.

## ARTICLE IV – Class Web Site, online Planbook and Focus portal

Students and parents should stay informed of current assignments, upcoming tests, and other class news through the class web site: [www.mrhord.weebly.com](http://www.mrhord.weebly.com). Daily lessons and assignments are posted on Mr. Hord's *Planbook*, which can be accessed from a link from the class web site; the same link is also posted on the Woodlawn Beach Middle School web site. This year the Focus portal, accessed through Classlink or through a link on the Santa Rosa School District website, will duplicate many of the features of the class website and of Planbook.

## ARTICLE V – Beginning of Class Time

Students should be in line, orderly and ready to enter the Republic of Woodlawndia when invited. Upon entry, students assume responsibilities as Citizens of Woodlawndia, including:

- Sitting in assigned seats
- Being ready for class to begin on time – pencil already sharpened, restroom break already accomplished, necessary materials on the desk, etc.
- Come to class with a curious and open mind.

## **ARTICLE VI – Escalating Penalties for Violations**

The normal progression of discipline is:

- 1) Verbal Counseling
- 2) “Woodlawndia Incident Report” completed by student and signed by parent or guardian
- 3) Contact with parent or guardian & Written Additional Assignment
- 4) Referral to the Dean

Serious violations may justify immediate action at the #3 or #4 level.

## **ARTICLE VII – Calculation of Grades**

The components that determine the grade for each nine weeks period will be weighted according to this scale:

- Tests = 40%
- Quizzes = 30%
- Class Work & Homework = 20%
- Standards Report (oral or written) = 10%