District 203 Mission Statement
To educate students to be self-directed learners, collaborative workers, complex thinkers, quality producers, and community contributors

Government Vision Statement
The American Government PLC will promote civic responsibility and guide students towards real world connections through real-world applications and learning opportunities.

Course Description
How is democracy reflected in the three branches of the American system of government? In this course, students will study the primary concepts of the American political system, including its foundations, structures and political behavior. This course does not simply look at the institutions of the federal government but also examines the parties’ issues, candidates and power-pressure groups and their roles in American politics at the national level. Emphasis is also placed on the role of the citizen in a democratic society. Successful completion of this course satisfies the American Government graduation requirement.

Course Completing Questions
- What purpose should the United States government serve and from where does its power come?
- In American Federalism, where should the power of government reside?
- Are all voices heard in our American Republic?
- To what extent does Congress reflect the will of the people?
- How powerful should the President be within American Democracy?
- To what extent does the structure of Federal Court Systems resolve conflict and preserve liberty?
- Does the Constitution do enough to protect civil liberties and individual freedom?

Grading:
Your course grade will reflect what you have learned, not what you have completed!

Overall Semester grade:
85% of the Course grade,
15% Semester final exam.
The final semester grade will be rounded to the nearest percentage point.

Course Grade
Summative Assessments = 80%
- Tests
- Projects
- Current Event Analysis
Formative Assessments = 20%
- Homework
- Checks for Understanding

Final Exam – this is cumulative & incorporates material from the entire semester
Grading Disbursement: Grades will be rounded within 0.5%

A= 90-100 B= 80-89 C= 70-79 D=60-69 F= <59

Any percentage lower than 50% will be put into the grade book as a 50%, the lowest possible grade on completed work (incomplete or work not turned in will receive a grade of 0 in the grade book).

Reassessments:
Students that achieve 80% or higher on the first summative assessment will not be allowed to retake. 80% is the maximum score a student can earn on a retake.

Reassessments can be taken after meeting with your teacher. Students will only have a set length of time to retake an assessment. Retakes are not allowed past the announced deadline.

There will be one reassessment opportunity for students to develop mastery of learning on summative assessments. Projects and presentations are excluded as students are encouraged to check-in with their teacher during creation of the assignment. Prior to taking a reassessment, students will receive formative feedback on their performance and must demonstrate initiative by completing any of the following as provided by the instructor. Study guides, test corrections, readings, oral progress checks, target logs, book reviews etc...The teacher will set-up the retake time and location with the student after the above criteria is met.

Communication

- Teachers make every effort to respond to emails and phone calls within 48 hours during the work week.
- The best way to communicate with teachers is through email; however, if you haven’t received a response in 48 hours, please resend the email or call their voicemail. Your email may have gone into the spam folder.

Help

- Make an appointment with your teacher.
- Attend S.O.S (supervised open study) in the Literacy Center M, W & Th from 3:15 to 4:15.
- Drop in for peer tutor during lunch periods or before school through the Literacy Center.

Parents or Guardians

We need your help!

- Parents should actively check Infinite Campus for their student’s grade.
  - The grades on Infinite Campus are fluid. Teacher will update them as often as possible.
  - Grades are posted three times a year in accordance with the school grading periods.
  - Infinite Campus is a communication tool until final grade is posted.
- Please ask your student about their school work
- Check with your individual teacher for classroom procedures, schedules, and daily class news.