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

Social Studies Department Mission:
Our mission is to equip students with knowledge and skills so they can be active global citizens, curious thinkers and empathetic and compassionate human beings through our dynamic teaching and collaboration

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 Skills
- Visual Literacy (including maps, charts, graphs, political cartoons)
- Demonstrate how to express an understanding of those who hold different opinions.
- Textual Analysis
- Claim Writing and identification of appropriate support

Course Essential 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 Calculation Definitions
At Naperville North we define formative and summative work as follows:
- Formative work is used to monitor student’s learning to provide ongoing feedback that can be used by students to improve their learning. Examples may include: practice activities, homework, quizzes, etc.
- Summative work is used to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional unit or segment of learning by comparing it against a standard or benchmark.
Grading Practices
Grades communicate each student's progress toward mastery of goals/standards for the course.
- No extra credit will be issued.
- Violations of the academic integrity policy will be consequenced by administration in collaboration with the Department Chair/teacher.
- 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).
- A zero on a summative assessment will only indicate that no attempt was made by the student.

Formative work:
  - Accepted up to the end of each unit. Assignments submitted after the end of each unit may not be accepted for credit.
  - Formative work submitted after the due date cannot be penalized more than a total of 10%.

Summative work:
  - A zero on a summative assessment will only indicate that no attempt was made by the student.
    - Summative work submitted after the due date cannot be penalized more than a total of 10% and must be submitted prior to the end of the next unit. Acceptance of summative work submitted after the end of the following unit is subject to teacher discretion.

Grading Disbursement
A=100-90%, B=89-80%, C= 79-70%, D=69-60%, F=59-0%

American Government Grading Breakdown
  - Formative = 10%
  - Summative = 90%
  - Overall Semester Grade is based on the compilation of 85% course work (formative/summative) and 15% Final Exam Test or Project

Academic Integrity Code Statement
District 203 students are challenged to address the academic process enthusiastically, diligently, and most importantly, honestly. It is the responsibility of our students, teachers, and administration to uphold the fundamental academic values of honesty, responsibility, fairness, respect and trust. The integrity of our district's academic programs is built upon these principles.

Academic integrity violations include cheating; plagiarism, self-plagiarism or copy infringement; obtaining or providing an unfair advantage; falsification of documents; unauthorized access to records; and inappropriate collaboration, whether intentional or unintentional. The classroom teacher and administration will collaborate and exercise professional judgment in determining academic integrity violations.
Reassessment Policy
Students will be provided multiple and varied opportunities to demonstrate mastery of learning standards. The purpose of reassessment is to allow students to demonstrate mastery of course standards in which they remain deficient.

● Students will be required to engage in further learning and reassessment when students do not demonstrate sufficient learning of the course essential standards.
● Students who have demonstrated sufficient learning of the essential standards (but scored below 80%), will be allowed reassessment opportunities on summative assessments if they so choose. To be eligible for reassessment, students must:
  ○ Initiate a discussion of their assessment grade with the teacher
  ○ Demonstrate readiness for the summative assessment through completion of formative work
  ○ Complete designated learning experiences assigned by the teacher

● Reassessments MUST be completed during the next unit of study.
● Reassessment opportunities could include options such as:
  ○ Assessment retakes
  ○ Test corrections
  ○ Alternative assignments

● Project-based assessments that include multiple opportunities for feedback and improvement in the assessment process will represent multiple attempts and be considered a reassessment
● Higher reassessment grades will replace the original assessment score (but will not exceed 80%).

Communication
● You are encouraged to communicate with your teacher regarding questions.
● Teachers make every effort to respond to emails and phone calls within 24 hours during the work week.
● The best way to communicate with teachers is through email; however, if you haven’t received a response within 48 hours, please resend the email or call their voicemail. Your email may have been filtered.

Additional Resources for Support
➢ You can make an appointment with your teacher should they need additional instruction or support in learning material.
➢ You can attend S.O.S. (Supervised Open Study) in the Learning Commons Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3:15-4:15 PM to receive extra support or to work on assignments.
➢ You can drop in to work with a peer tutor during lunch periods or before school in the Literacy Center.

Parents or Guardians
Naperville North believes in a collective partnership with parents/guardians which provides students the best opportunities for success.
We encourage students and parents to:
● Actively check Infinite Campus for their student’s grade.
  ○ Infinite Campus is a tool to progress monitor student work until final course grade is posted.
  ○ Monthly progress grades are posted and represent the current grade of a student in the course at that moment in time.
● Discuss missing assignments, reiterate due dates, help organize folders, materials, assignment notebooks and review upcoming projects and assessments.