**Introduction:**

Welcome young historians! This class is all about our government and how it functions. Some of the topics covered are the branches of government, political parties, voting requirements, and current events. This class is required for graduation. PIG supports a students' ability to earn the Seal of Civic Readiness (SOCR). The SOCR is both a graduation distinction, an honor earned above graduation requirements, and a graduation pathway as it can replace one of the 5 regents exams required to graduate. Earning the SOCR is an option for all students. All course material and projects are required in order to pass the class. Some of the coursework can earn the student points towards earning the SOCR if they meet the necessary requirements. More information will be shared on this throughout the course as the opportunity to earn points towards the SOCR arises.

**Classroom Materials:**
- Students will be required to bring the following materials to class **Everyday.**
- Pen and pencil.
- **Each student is required to have a Chromebook/Laptop fully charged in class EVERYDAY, binder/folder, pens and or pencils.**

**Classroom Rules:**
- All rules stated in the John Jay Code of Conduct apply to class.
- Be on Time.
- Cell phones will be used at the discretion of the teachers. They need to be out of sight and silenced.

**Attendance Policy:**
- **Absences**--- You are responsible for any work you missed while you were absent. This includes classwork, homework, projects, writing assignments, etc. It is your responsibility to hand in work due to absences.

**Course Requirements:**

- **Town Meeting----** Students are required to attend in person or attend virtually one Town Meeting (School Board Meeting, Town Meeting, Zoning Meeting, etc).
- **Legislative Bill Project---** Students are required to create a sample bill on a topic of their choice and propose their bill to become a possible law.
- **Mock Elections Project---** Students will be working with their political party of their choice to create a party platform and to select a president and vice president to run for office.
- **Movie Critiques/ Reviews---** We will be watching various movies during the semester of topics that pertain to government. Students will be writing movie critiques/ essays where students identify how the movie fits into the PIG curriculum.
- **Participation---** Students are expected to participate in class activities, group activities, debates, and individual assignments.
- **Debates---** Students will be participating in debates on various issues that pertain to government.

**Grading:** Grades are based on total points.

**Marking Period #1--- 50%**
**Marking Period #2--- 50%**

**\*The final project which is the post assessment will be part of Marking Period #2.**

- **Projects (200 points or more)**
- **Movie Critiques/ Writeups (200 points or more)**
- **Debates (100 points)**
- **Classwork (20 points or more)**

**Possible Issues we will focus on:**
- **Presidential Elections/ 2024 Presidential Election**

- **Election Process**
- **Jury Process, The Supreme Court**
- **Special Interest Groups**
- **5th Amendment--- Due Process Rights, Rights of the Accused**
- **2nd Amendment--- Right to Bear Arms**
- **Death Penalty**
- **Abortion**
- **Euthanasia--- Assisted Suicide**
- **Medicinal Marijuana**
- **Education**
- **Immigration**
- **Electoral College**
- **LGBTQ Rights**
- **Patriot Act and 9/11**
- **Taxes**
- **Flag Desecration--- Flag Burning**
- **The CoronaVirus**
- **Supreme Court**
- **Entitlement Programs--- Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid**
- **U.S. Debt--- Deficit**

**Contact Information:**

The best way to reach us would be through our email address. Students and parents feel free to email us at any time because we check our email frequently every day. We can also be contacted by phone as well.

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