**Key Biscayne K – 8 Center:
Mr. Raymond 2016/2017**[**http://mrraymondsocialstudies.weebly.com/**](http://mrraymondsocialstudies.weebly.com/)

**COURSE SYLLABUS:** 7th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES: CIVICS

Dear students, parents, and guardians:

Welcome to 7th grade Civics! I hope that you will find this class interesting, informative—and fun! You will be working very hard to develop new skills and understand new concepts this year. I strongly believe in challenging students through a variety of activities that will make government and history “come alive”. This syllabus will give you information about how to become a productive member of my classroom, so that you become your very best by doing your very best. I am looking forward to what we can accomplish this year. Please review this packet carefully.

**CONTENT** The focus of this course is to prepare students to participate in exercising their political responsibilities as thoughtful and informed citizens. Civics provides a basis for understanding the rights and responsibilities for being an American citizen and a framework for competent and responsible participation. Emphasis is placed on the historical development of government and political systems, and the importance of the rule of law; the United States Constitution; Federal, State and local government structure; and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Students will actively investigate local, state and national issues, read and participate in discussions, and develop informed arguments using a variety of writing forms.

**TEXTBOOK** The state adopted text is Building Citizenship: Civics and Economics, published by McGraw Hill, Inc. The textbook is available on-line through the student portal, but a hard copy can be obtained by each student. If a student choses to bring home a book, they are responsible for returning it in a similar condition to which they received it. Failure to return the book will result in paying for a replacement copy. Much of the learning for this class will come from a variety of sources including PowerPoint presentations, videos, games and other texts. Most of these sources will be available from my website: <http://mrraymondsocialstudies.weebly.com/>

**SUPPLIES**

Spiral notebook (8 ½” x 11”, 70 pages, college width, NOT wireless) or a three ring binder

Pencils and pens

Planner / Agenda

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) is a program to promote and maximize academic achievement and behavioral competence. It is a strategy for helping all students achieve important social and learning goals and we practice it in this class. When good behavior and good teaching come together, students will excel in their learning. As part of PBIS, there are several clear classroom expectations for behavior that will help students Respect all, Achieve their best, and Make good decisions. These expectations include,

1. Keep your hands, feet and inappropriate language to yourself.

2. Raise your hand to speak.

3. Before second bell, be in your seat and prepared to learn

4. Cell phones must be put away, unless instructed to use it by the teacher

CONSEQUENCES A 3-strikes policy is in effect in my classroom. If a student chooses not to fully participate in class or to misbehave, that choice will be met with real consequences.

They are as follows:

1st and 2nd infractions Warning

3rd infraction lunch or after school detention and student fails conduct for the day.

2 failed conduct days results in a letter grade deduction for the marking period.

Cheating: any student that is caught cheating will be dropped 2 letter grades for the marking period and parents will be contacted.

\* \*Please note that sudden, severe misbehavior can be met with an immediate referral to the office. Expulsion from the classroom may also result in a phone call home, parent conference and/or administrative intervention.

GRADING Grades are based on a total point percentage scale. Behavior and attitude will be a deciding factor when students are on the border between two grades

A 90% and above
B 80-89%
C 70-79%
D 60-69%
F 59% and below ASSIGNMENTS

HOMEWORK • Expect homework. Know that I expect your work to be turned in—neat and complete—on the day it is due. Late homework will result in a reduction in your grade • There is NO excuse for not knowing homework assignments and when they are due—even if you are absent. You can find your homework assignments: - By reading the board each day – or checking my website: <http://mrraymondsocialstudies.weebly.com>

• Most units also have a major project associated with it, worth equal or more points than the unit test.