

Course Descriptions – Mrs. Birney – 2011-2012

Government:

Government is a detailed study of the democratic principles and practices. It also encourages student to explore how government works in everyday life. Students will explore the national and state government, looking specifically at the three branches of government. It will also provide a picture of the political process as well as demonstrating how student can participate responsibly in the American system of government. It will concentrate on the themes of Political Foundations, Principles of Democracy, Constitutional Government, Political Processes, World Affairs, Citizenship, and the Public Good.

American History:

American History is an in depth study of the events that have occurred throughout our history from the Civil War to the present day. The importance of cultural diversity, geography, democratic values, economics, global relations, and technology is stressed, showing how it has shaped America's past, present, and future. The content will enhance the connection between historical events and see how past events are relevant to today's social, political, and economic concerns.

World Geography

The course is designed to study the countries of the world. Students will learn continents, countries, capital cities, landform regions, world leaders, world history, and culture of the many countries and areas throughout the world. It will show students how to make connections between what was, what is, and what may be.

Current Events

This course is designed to help students stay current on the political, social, cultural events taking place in the world. Newspapers will be read daily and discussions will take place to help raise awareness of current world events. It will also involve writing newspaper articles concerning the events taking place at USD 459.

Psychology

See attached syllabus