

**Mrs. Kennedy's Class Syllabus
Oak Mountain Middle School**

Welcome to 7th grade Civics / Geography! We will explore how American citizenship, government, and the economy works, as well as world geography, cultures, and religions. I hope to inspire you to become more interested in current American government, politics, geographical maps, various cultures, and religions. Here are a few of our class objectives for this year:

Class Objectives**Civics ~ 1st Semester**

- Students will trace the development of American government.
- Students will understand the various forms of government.
- Students will describe the three branches of government and their functions.
- Students will apply their understanding of government principles to current political events.
- Students will identify individual and civic responsibilities of citizens of the United States.
- Students will explore the primary functions of political parties.

Geography ~ 2nd Semester

- Students will analyze the world in spatial terms using maps, major physical and human features, and urban and rural land-use patterns.
- Students will locate cultural hearths for each continent on maps, globes, and satellite images.
- Students will describe ways people in each hemisphere prepare for natural hazards and disasters.
- Students will investigate countries, governments, religions, and cultures of the Eastern Hemisphere.

OMMS Mission Statement

To expect and encourage nothing but the best in a nurturing, opportunity-rich environment.

Materials

- 3-ring binder
- 3 Tab Dividers (1. Bell Ringers; 2. Notes; 3. Learning Targets)
- College-ruled notebook paper
- Colored pencils
- Glue sticks (at least 5)
- Pencils & Pens
- 2 packs of 3x5 index cards (to turn into Mrs. Kennedy)

Classroom Rules/Expectations

1. Be respectful to the teacher and other students at all times.
2. Raise your hand before speaking or leaving your desk.
3. Be on time and prepared for class.
4. When the dismissal bell rings, stay in your seat until dismissed by the teacher.
5. Be "Nothing But the Best!"

Classroom Procedures

- Enter the classroom quietly and sit in assigned seat before the tardy bell rings each day. If you are not in your seat when the bell rings, then you will be marked as "tardy."
- Once you have entered the class, you should:
 1. Take any handouts on the table by the door and sharpen pencils.
 2. Copy down homework in your agenda from homework board.
 3. Copy bell ringer from board and answer in detail.
 4. Put any handouts and process assignment into Interactive Student Binder.

- **Interactive Student Binder (ISB):** This is your portfolio for the class. This binder is where you will store **ALL** of your notes, handouts, activities, homework, classwork, etc. This is a creative way to encourage you to use a variety of learning techniques while building organizational skills. ISBs will be graded periodically throughout the semester. ISB reviews may be announced or unannounced, so it is important that you keep up with it and bring it to class **EVERY DAY!**
- **Leaving the classroom:** Going to the restroom, lockers, office, etc., should be taken care of in between classes since our class time is very valuable. Students will not be allowed to leave the classroom unless it is an emergency, to be determined by me.
- **Make-Up Work:** I will follow the handbook policy for all make-up work. It is the **student's responsibility** to complete all make-up work. ***Students are required to check my blog each day they are absent.*** Students are welcomed to meet with me before school or during advisory regarding missed assignments. I will not continuously remind students of their make-up work. In addition, there will be an ISB Sample notebook located in the classroom.
- **Late Work:** ****Late work includes incomplete assignments and any assignments that are not in your hand at the time I check them. If you have to go back to your locker after class has started to get your assignment, you will be marked tardy! Students are expected and required to complete all assignments to the best of their ability. Not doing work is NOT AN OPTION. I will fully enforce the OMMS "Every Assignment Every Time" policy.**
- **Discipline Procedures:** In the event of discipline problems, I will follow the steps listed below.
 - First offence – a verbal warning
 - Second offence – a documented warning (pink slip)
 - Third offence – Detention
 - Four or more offences – detention and parent/teacher conference and/or an office referral

Assessment/Grades

Grades are a way of telling both the teacher and student how well the student understands what we are learning. Your comprehension of what we discuss will be assessed in a variety of ways including homework, class work, class activities & participation, chapter tests, unit tests and projects. You will be able to keep up with your grades through iNow. In many cases, homework and classwork have saved a grade, especially after a low performance on a test.

Communication

Communication between the teacher, students & parents is a key integral to success in school. Please feel free to contact me via e-mail at any time. This is the easiest and fastest way for me to communicate throughout the day. In addition, lecture/class notes, assignments, and announcements will be posted on my blog.

Personal Conduct and Discipline

I expect all students to be respectful and to behave appropriately at **ALL** times. When a student misbehaves, he or she is taking important class time away from fellow students. Misbehavior will **not** be tolerated and consequences will result.

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I am excited to have your child in my class! I will do my best to facilitate learning and a stimulating educational experience.

Email Address: jkennedy@shelbyed.org

Blog: <https://podcasts.shelbyed.k12.al.us/jkennedy/>

Sincerely,

Julie P. Kennedy
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7th Grade Social Studies
Washington DC Sponsor
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