

Rockingham County Public Schools
Seventh Grade Civics and Economics Benchmarks

A Guide for Parent Involvement

1st Nine Weeks

Foundations of Government; CE.2, CE.3a,b

American constitutional government

- Fundamental principles

Roots of democracy and its documents

- Charters of Virginia Company of London
- Virginia Declaration of Rights
- Declaration of Independence
- Articles of Confederation
- Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom
- Constitution of the United States
 - Preamble
 - Bill of Rights
 - Procedures in the Amendment Process
 - Constitution of Virginia
 - United States Constitution

Levels/Branches of Government CE.6, CE.7, CE.8, CE.9

American constitutional government

- Federal system of government
- Separation of powers and checks and balances
- Structure and powers of federal, state, and local

Public policy at federal, state, and local levels

- Lawmaking process (legislative branch)
- Roles and powers of executive branch
- Media and public policy
- Influence of individuals and interest groups on public policy

***Material for CE.6, CE.7, CE.8 may be arranged into several units

- from the standpoint of levels of government
- or from the standpoint of branches of government

2nd Nine Weeks

Levels/Branches of Government CE.6, CE.7, CE.8, CE.9, CE.10

American Constitutional government

Public policy at federal, state, and local levels

- Lawmaking process (legislative branch)
- Roles and powers of executive branch
- Media and public policy
- Influence of individuals and interest groups on public policy

Judicial system of Virginia and the United States

- Organization and jurisdiction of federal and state courts
- Exercise of judicial review
- Court proceedings in Civil and criminal cases (including juvenile cases)
- Due process protections

***Material for CE.6, CE.7, CE.8 may be arranged into several units

- from the standpoint of levels of government
- or from the standpoint of branches of government

Citizenship; CE.3a-e, CE.4, CE.5

Citizens' rights, duties, and responsibilities

- Process of becoming a citizen
- First Amendment freedoms
- Duties
 - Obey laws
 - Pay taxes
 - Defend nation
 - Serve in court
- Responsibilities
 - Voting
 - Communicating with officials
 - Participating in campaigns
 - Keeping informed about issues
 - Respecting different opinions
- Community Service
- Traits of a good citizen

3rd Nine Weeks

Citizenship; CE.3a-e, CE.4, CE.5

Citizens' rights, duties, and responsibilities

Political process

- Functions of political parties
- Similarities & differences of political parties
- Role of media
- Campaign finances
- Voter registration and participation
- Electoral college process

*During major election years, the material on the political process may be moved to the 2nd six weeks to correspond with current events if teachers deem necessary.

Economics; CE.11, CE.12, CE.13, CE.14

Economic decisions in the marketplace

- Basic economic terms and concepts
- Characteristics of major economic systems with focus on the United States

Structure and operation of the U. S. economy

- Basic types of business ownership
- Role of entrepreneur
- Economic flow of consumers, businesses, and markets
- Supply and demand
- Globalization
- Characteristics of private financial institutions
- Relationship of Virginia and U.S. to global economy
- Impact of technological innovations
- Knowledge of sound personal finances

6th Six Weeks

Economics; CE.11, CE.12, CE.13, CE.14

Structure and operation of the U. S. economy

- Basic types of business ownership
- Role of entrepreneur
- Economic flow of consumers, businesses, and markets
- Characteristics of private financial institutions
- Relationship of Virginia and U.S. to global economy
- Impact of technological innovations

Role of government in the U.S. economy

- Competition including government agencies
- Public goods and services
- Taxation, spending, & borrowing
- Federal Reserve system
- Consumer and property rights

Career opportunities

Review for Civics/Economics Standards of Learning Test

Grade 7 CE, SOL Test

Application of previous topics and/or pre-teaching of content in SOL Benchmarks contained in subsequent curricula

On-going Study Skills; CE.1 will be incorporated into each of the above 9 weeks units

** The numbers throughout the Benchmarks refer to the 2008 Virginia Social Studies Standards of Learning objectives. For example, "CE.3" refers to the Civics and Economics SOL objective number "3"