**Unit 4: Political Participation & Linkage Institutions  
Part I – Political Parties & Interest Groups (UPDATED)**

**Overview**We will next focus our attention to what is called linkage institutions – political parties, interest groups, and the media. Linkage institutions are those establishments or systems which connect people to the government. During the first part of the unit, we will focus on political parties and interest groups. Our second part of the unit will emphasize elections, public opinion, and the media. We will watch a movie, *We the People: The Election of Barack Obama*, during the second part of this unit.

**Third Quarter Reminders**

* Class Expectations
  + **Tardy** - If you are late to class, please sign in at the front table. You will have lunch detention the day for your tardy (additional tardies will result in additional detention and administrative action)
  + **Technology** – cell phones, ear buds and additional technology should be stored during class. Items will be confiscated and turned into the front office.
  + **Food & Drink** – due to school policy, these items are not permitted in the classroom and should be put away in a backpack.
* Assignments and Assessments
  + **Grades** – We will continue with the current grade breakdown of our class; 50% of your grade will come from tests and the other 50% of your grade will come from homework and classwork. Late homework can be turned in up until the unit test for a maximum of a 50%
  + **Review** – the class period before the test will be set aside for reviewing the material; with that said, it is expected that you will still study outside of class and be prepared.
  + **Resources/Format** – All tests for third quarter will be open-packet/note; we will no longer have the option of test corrections after the test.

**Essential Objectives**

1. Political and economic institutions evolve to help individuals and groups accomplish their goals.
2. The United States has had a two-party system since its early days as a nation.
3. Political parties play a vital role in our democratic system and the decisions made by our government.
4. Democrats and Republicans are organized into 50 state parties and thousands of local parties that operate independently of the national organization.
5. Political parties nominate candidates to run for public office and have many other responsibilities.
6. Political and economic institutions evolve to help individuals and groups accomplish their goals.
7. Interest groups are an important part of our democratic process because they influence public policy.
8. Interest groups use various techniques to influence public opinion and policy through seven different propaganda techniques.

**Unit Plan**

Monday, February 3

Discussion: Test Make-Ups/Finish Unit Work; Individual Conferences  
 Unit Overview  
**Homework: Complete the Chapter 5, Section 3 Political Cartoon: The Two-Party System in   
 American History**

Wednesday, February 5

Discussion: Political Parties, An Introduction  
 Online Activity: Political Spectrum  
**Homework: Complete “Political Party” Survey**

Friday, February 7

**DPS Closed**

Monday, February 10

Discussion: Political Parties Today  
 Activity: The 6 Roles of Political Parties   
**Homework: Vocabulary Activity 9: Political Parties and Politics (packet)**

Wednesday, February 12

Discussion: Propaganda Techniques  
**Homework: Finish your propaganda techniques pamphlet**

Friday, February 14

Discussion: Interest Groups, An Introduction  
 Political Cartoon: Interest Groups at Work & The Nature of Interest Groups  
**Homework: None – use the weekend to catch up on work in the packet**

Tuesday, February 18

Discussion: Types of Interest Groups  
 Re-teaching Activity: Influencing Government  
**Homework: Go through packet, circle, AND define 20 words right where you circled them. These   
 terms should not come from your supplemental notes. Note: this is different than   
 what we have done in the past and will be checked for a homework grade.**

Thursday, February 20

Discussion: Political Action Committees  
 Enrichment Activity 11  
**Homework: Practice Multiple Choice Questions**

Monday, February 24

Discussion: Review for test   
**Homework: Study for test**

Wednesday, February 26

**TEST: POLITICAL PARTIES & INTEREST GROUPS**