**Unit 3: Law and Order – Courts and the American Legal System  
Part I – Judicial Branch (Civics, Mr. McDonald)**

**Overview**Our third unit will focus on the courts and the American legal system. Before the holiday break in December, we will investigate the Federal Court system including a look at important Supreme Court Cases. After the break, the second part of the unit will discuss legal rights and responsibilities. During this portion, we will review the Bill of Rights, research additional court cases and watch the documentary 13th. It is expected that you will complete the homework and be prepared for each class session. Additional copies of course documents are on class website

**Second 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 second quarter will be open-packet/note; we will no longer have the option of test corrections after the test.

**Essential Questions/Objectives**

1. How can governments ensure citizens are treated fairly?
2. Why do people create, structure, and change government?
3. Under our federal system, the three branches share the responsibility of governing the nation.
4. Three levels of federal courts try to ensure that everyone in the US receives equal justice under the law.
5. The different levels of federal courts each deal with a different caseload, ensuring all citizens receive a speedy trial or day in court.
6. The judicial branch is charged with interpreting the law.
7. The Court’s decisions have long-term effects because justices interpret the meaning of the U.S. Constitution.
8. Supreme Court justices weigh many factors and go through several complex steps before making a decision.
9. Key decisions of the Supreme Court have led to major changes in our country.

**Unit Plan**

Monday, December 2

Discussion: Unit Overview/What Do You Already Know/Basic Vocabulary  
 Supreme Court Case Study: Marbury v. Madison  
**Homework: Finish Marbury v. Madison questions**

Wednesday, December 4

Discussion: Organization of Federal/State Courts  
 Groups: Who Hears Which Case?  
**Homework: TBD**

Friday, December 6

Discussion: The United States Supreme Court, An Introduction  
 Video/Case Analysis: Brown v. Board of Education  
**Homework: TBD**

Tuesday, December 10

Discussion: Deciding Cases at the Supreme Court  
**Homework: Obergefell v. Hodges (the assignment will be given in class)**

Thursday, December 12

Discussion: Key Supreme Court Case Decisions, Part I   
 Video/Discussion: Roe v. Wade  
 Groups - Dred Scott v. Sanford, Plessy v. Ferguson, Korematsu v. United States  
**Homework: Finish Supreme Court Case Analysis**

Monday, December 16

Discussion: Key Supreme Court Case Decisions:   
 Groups/Discussion: Miranda v. Arizona, Mapp v. Ohio, Gideon v. Wainwright  
**Homework: Circle 50 content terms/concepts from the packet that apply to this unit**

Wednesday, December 18

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

Friday, December 20

TEST: JUDICIAL BRANCH   
**Homework: None**

Monday, December 23 – Friday, January 3

NO SCHOOL – WINTER BREAK