**Unit 3: Law and Order – Courts and the American Legal System  
Part 2 – American Legal System (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. Define the source of our laws.
2. Describe the types of laws that exist.
3. Explain the elements of the American Legal System.
4. Analyze the legal rights and responsibilities of the government and the citizens.
5. Identify and define the steps in a civil case.
6. Identify and define the steps in a criminal case.
7. Evaluate court cases that reflect the rights of the accused.
8. Connect the legal system to the Bill of Rights.
9. Differentiate the juvenile system with other courts.
10. Analyze the degree of fairness in the prison system.

**Unit Plan**

Tuesday, January 7

Discussion: Unit Overview; Discussion: What Do We Already Know?   
 [Video: Legal Systems: The Basics](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXw-hEB263k)  
 The Sources of Our Laws & Types of Laws  
**Homework: Finish classwork**

Thursday, January 9

Discussion: The American Legal System/Bill of Rights  
 Legal Rights and Responsibilities  
**Homework: Read, annotate, and answer questions 1-5 from The Debate Over Damages: The   
 Case of McDonald’s Hot Coffee (Economics Activity 16, p. 25).**

Monday, January 13

Discussion: Steps in a Civil Case (with video)  
 The Debate over Damage Awards  
**Homework: Read and answer questions 1-5 from An Equity Suit (Enrichment Activity, p. 29**

Wednesday, January 15

Discussion: Steps in a Criminal Case (with video)  
 Supreme Court Cases: Mapp v. Ohio, Miranda v. Arizone, Gideon v. Wainwright  
**Homework: Finish Supreme Court Cases**

Friday, January 17

Discussion: Finish Civil/Criminal Cases  
 Young People and the Courts  
**Homework: Circle or highlight 50 terms/Review for test**

Friday, January 24

Discussion: Documentary: 13th  
**Homework: Write reflection on documentary/Review for test**

Tuesday, January 28

Discussion: Finish & Discuss 13th  
 Review for test  
**Homework: Study for test**

Thursday, January 30

TEST: AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM  
**Homework: None**