**American History: The Founding Principles, Civics and Economics**

Unit 2, Part 2 – The Constitution and the Executive Branch

**Overview**

Our second unit will focus on the creation and details of the constitution. We will look at readings, current events, unit packets, short video clips, and discussion to better understand the major concepts associated with the material. Each unit will include objectives, details about assessments, and our daily plans. It is expected that you will complete the homework and be prepared for each class session. Additional copies of the unit plans and packets are on the class website (https://learningandunlearning.weebly.com).

**Second Quarter Changes**

After reflecting on our class conversation, we are going to try some new things during the second quarter.

* 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)
  + **New Seats** – in an attempt to increase productivity, we will have new seats for the second quarter. You will be working with the same partner throughout this time.
  + **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.
  + **Activities** – We will include more video clips, activities, and review questions during our class sessions in order to make sure you are engaged in the material.
* 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
  + **Homework** – assignments not completed when due can still 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 will be open-packet/note; we will no longer have the option of test corrections after the test. Additionally, the number of matching questions will be reduced.
  + **Dates** – We will work hard to avoid testing early in the week. With that said, I do know that your next test is on a Monday (This will ensure that there is no homework over the holiday).

**Unit Objectives**

1. The Constitution gives the executive branch the power to execute, or implement, the law.
2. The president holds one of the most powerful and important elective offices in the world.
3. The Constitution gives the executive branch the power to execute, or implement, the law.
4. The president fills many different roles.
5. Under our federal system, the executive, legislative, and judicial branches share the responsibility of governing the nation.
6. The president and Congress have important roles in making foreign policy.
7. The Constitution gives the executive branch the power to execute, or implement, the law.
8. Thousands of employees and advisers help the president.
9. Political principles and major events shape how people form governments.
10. Americans faced the task of forming independent governments at both the state and national levels.
11. A constitution reflects the values and goals of the society that creates it.
12. The Constitution is this nation’s fundamental law.
13. A constitution reflects the values and goals of the society that creates it.
14. The Constitution sets forth the basic principles of government.
15. The President of the United States is challenged with enforcing the United States Constitution.

**Extra Credit**

Using 50 content-based terms from the unit, make flashcards. The front of the flashcard should have the term or concept and the back should have a thorough definition of that concept. If you do not have index cards, you may cut up paper to make the flashcards. This extra credit assignment is due on the day of the test and is worth an additional 5 points on the test. IMPORTANT: This is an individual assignment; any signs of group work or cheating and you will not earn the points. If you have any questions, please let me know.

**Unit Plan**

Monday, November 4

Discussion: The Presidency: What do you know?

Electing the President

**Homework: Complete p. 23 in packet (Chapter Skills Activity 7, “Reading an Election Map.”)**

Wednesday, November 6

Discussion: Roles of the President, Part I.

**Homework: Complete p. 35 in packet (Guided Reading Activity 7-3, “Making Foreign Policy”)**

Friday, November 8

Discussion: Roles of the President, Part II.

**Homework: Complete the “Role of Congress in Foreign Policy.” Answer the questions on   
additional paper (you will be turning this in)**

Wednesday, November 13

Discussion: Movie - Dave

**Homework: Complete p. 21 in packet (Vocab Activity 7, “President and the Executive Branch”)**

Friday, November 15

Discussion: Finish Dave

The Federal Bureaucracy, Part I

**Homework: p. 31 in packet (Enrichment Activity 7, “Presidential Succession.”)**

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| Tuesday, November 19 |

Discussion: The Federal Bureaucracy, Part II

**Homework: Go through completed sheets in the packet and underline 50 unit terms.**

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| Thursday, November 21 |

Discussion: Review for Test

**Homework: Study for Test**

Monday, November 25

Test – The Constitution and Executive Branch

**Homework: None**