

# School Year 2022-2023: Back to School Night @ LJMS

**8th Grade Civics**



# Welcome and Introductions



## Overarching Course Goals:

Civics and Economics includes the knowledge and understanding of the democratic government and the American economic system. Students will learn the meaning of individual rights and responsibilities; the ideals of liberty, justice, and equality; and the rule of law. We want our students to understand public and personal economic and financial decisions. Our Tigers will learn how to participate in their democracy.

## Luther Jackson Civics Teachers

- ❑ Quasars Civics Teacher: Ms. Gresham
- ❑ Odyssey Civics Teacher: Mr. Carter
- ❑ Griffins Civics Teacher: Mr. Taft
- ❑ Innovators Civics Teacher: Mr. Holzshu
- ❑ Special Education Teachers: Mr. Lightfoot, Mr. Obeng, Ms. Subhash

# Curriculum

- ❑ Teachers will prioritize student success in planning, teaching, assessing, and intervention support over the course of the year.
- ❑ The Civics curriculum goals are centered around helping students understand their own role in the community and develop their voice in a safe secure environment where they feel respected and valued.
- ❑ The Economics unit looks at the role of the government, the workers and the employers in our economy at-large. In addition, we look at the global marketplace and identify ways that we can predict macroeconomic and microeconomic events.
- ❑ In addition the Citizenship and Government curriculum supports the traits taught in the Positivity Project as well as the social emotional growth of our students.

# 8th Grade Curriculum: Civics and Economics

- ❑ Standards for Civics and Economics examine the roles citizens play in the political, governmental, and economic systems in the United States. Students will examine the foundational documents and principles with which the constitutions of Virginia and the United States were established, identify the rights, duties, and responsibilities of citizens, and describe the structure and operation of government at the local, state, and national levels.
- ❑ Through the economics standards, students will compare the United States economy to other types of economies and consider the government's role in the United States economy. Students will investigate the process by which decisions are made in the American market economy and explain the government's role in the United States economy.

[Virginia Curriculum Framework](#)



# 8th Honors Civics Curriculum

FCPS civics honors, available to middle school students, is based on extensions of the FCPS Program of Studies. Students may self-select the Civics honors course to match their academic interests or strengths. Extensions are based on Carol Ann Tomlinson's *The Parallel Curriculum: A Design to Develop Learner Potential and Challenge Advanced Learners* (2009). The goal is to add depth and complexity to students' learning experiences. Students in honors courses frequently use abstract, critical thinking approaches through inquiry-based projects to extend and deepen understanding of the content. Honors courses prepare students for future success in the next step of their academic journey.

# The Honors Curriculum Continuum

## Continuum of Advanced Academic Services

Elementary School	Middle School	High School
Young Scholars All Levels K-12		
Critical and Creative Thinking Strategies Grades K-12		
Differentiated Lessons in Areas of Academic Strength Grades K-6 Level II	Honors Courses in English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies Grades 7-8	Honors Courses IBMYP Selected Schools Grades 9-10
Part-Time Advanced Academic Program Grades 3-6 Level III	IBMYP Selected Schools Grades 6-8	International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Advanced Placement Dual Enrollment
Full-Time Advanced Academic Program Grades 3-8 Level IV		Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

# 8th AAP Civics Curriculum

We believe in developing the strengths and talents of all students. Every student needs to be challenged and engaged in exciting learning experiences.

Our commitment to providing rigor to **all** students is part of the philosophy here at LJ.

- Some students need a differentiated curriculum to address their cognitive and social-emotional needs. These students receive additional AAP services based on:
  - Academic needs beyond peers at their grade level.
  - Strengths in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.
  - A need for increased depth, complexity, and pace of instruction.

## Advanced Academic Programs (AAP)

Fairfax County Public Schools offers a continuum of advanced academic services for students K-12 that builds upon students' individual strengths and skills and maximizes academic potential for all learners.

# Attendance Policy

- ❑ Attendance will be taken every day during school. Students who are absent for any reason should email their teachers right away.
- ❑ If students are absent they should:
  - ❑ Check their Schoology for missing work
  - ❑ Contact the teacher with any questions they may have
  - ❑ Attend an after-school session if they need further guidance
  - ❑ Complete any missing work within 4 weeks of the due date

# Class and Assignment Information

- ❑ What might a “typical” class look like?

Our lessons follow the LEARN lesson model (Link to prior knowledge, Engage in learning, Active Learning, Reflection and Now and then). Most days we will rotate through stations or activities to provide short bursts of new material and then provide opportunities for students to practice and master the skills and concepts.

- ❑ What digital tools might students interact with?

Tools that are approved by the county and are being used most often by teachers are the Google Suite of tools and Pear Deck. Students use their FCPS login for these tools or the teacher provides them with a link. Most tools and assignments are located within the Schoology platform. Students also have access to our online Social Studies Techbook. They can use their FCPS credentials to logon to the online book (housed in Schoology).

- ❑ What are some examples of classwork?

Classwork includes time for students to form and ask questions, and for teachers to assess where students are and which additional supports they may need. Group discussions, simulations and/or work activities are common.

# Assessments and Grading Policies

All tests, quizzes, projects, class work, writing, and participation will be weighted point values. Parents will receive grade updates in the form of electronic progress reports approximately every 2-3 weeks. At any time, feel free to contact me directly for updates. Students should notify their teachers if they notice a mistake in the progress report.

Participation serves various purposes, such as reinforcing daily objectives, helping determine if you have learned the content, and helping to prepare for future class activities/discussions.

- Late work will be graded on the quality of the work.

Students are allowed a retake on all major assessments – the goal is maximum student success in all areas. To qualify for a retake, a student must complete corrective action, and can only achieve a maximum of 80% (or the higher of the two attempts).

# Communication Protocols

- ❑ Clearly define how students and families will receive communication from you.

Teachers use a variety of methods to communicate with families: email, phone calls, progress reports, or announcements in Schoology..

- ❑ Clearly define the frequency of communication -- daily, weekly?

Teachers will send progress reports AT LEAST once every 2-3 weeks, although some students may receive one every week particularly if they are not keeping up with assignments. Teachers often email or call to follow up on students who are having trouble or if they are showing improvement!

- ❑ Clearly define how students and families can contact you if they have questions or concerns  
Emailing your child's teachers works best. Students and parents can access the teacher's contact information in Schoology.

- ❑ Establish response time expectations

Please give teachers 24 hours to respond to your message. We often are in class or handling time-sensitive assignments.

# Mr. Holzshu

- Began teaching in Anchorage, Alaska (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> English & Social Studies) 4 years
- Total teaching experience is now 25 years.
- Earned my Master's Degree in Educational Administration at the College of William and Mary
- 1997 & 2006 Teacher of the Year
- Became York County's first Nationally Board Certified Teacher (Social Studies)
- Became the A.A.P. credentialed and certified Teacher at Mosby Woods Elementary School



# About Me – Ms. Gresham

- BA – Clemson University in political science
- Masters from American College of Education
- Teaching certification through Old Dominion University
- 20 years teaching experience
- 17th year at Luther Jackson Middle, previously 3 years with Herndon Middle School



# Mr. Gregory Taft - Griffins Team



Hello! This is my 22nd year at Luther Jackson!

I grew up in upstate New York, lived a year in Berlin, Germany, and then moved to Virginia in 1994. I have a History BA from Hamilton College (NY) and a MA in History from George Mason (VA). But then I realized that I really prefer teaching government over history.

I live at home with my wife, two kids - 2nd and 9th grade - and two cats. I enjoy playing soccer and music, as well as reading my subject for fun.

# Mr. Vince Carter – Odyssey Team

- BA History - Norfolk State University.
- MEd Curriculum and Instruction George Mason University
- Certification K-12 Administration University of Virginia
- 29 years teaching experience 14 years at Jackson Middle
- I came to Jackson as the Dean of Students
- I have taught U.S. History, Civics, and World History 1

# Mrs. Sulekha Subhash (Titans) - Special Education



**This is my 17th year at LJ. I have a Master's in History (Delhi University) and a Master's in Special Education (George Mason)**

**This year, I am the recipient of the Fulbright Teachers for Global Classroom award.**

**Besides teaching 3 classes of US History (7th), I co teach Civics with Mr. Taft and Mr. Holzshu.**

**Contact information - email: [ssubhash@fcps.edu](mailto:ssubhash@fcps.edu)**



# About Me -Mr. Obeng

B.A.-University of Science & Technology, Ghana  
(Sociology)

B.A. -University of Ghana (Translation)

Post Grad Diploma - University of Leicester, UK  
(Marketing)

M.A. - George Washington University (Education)

9 years experience in education (4 years  
teaching)

4th year at Luther Jackson Middle School

I co-teach with Ms. Gresham and Mr. Carter