



# Welcome to Civics & Economics! Mrs. Kurtz Room O 1011



Email: [deannaj.kurtz@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:deannaj.kurtz@cms.k12.nc.us)  
Website: <http://southmeckcivics.weebly.com>

Civics & Economics is a 10<sup>th</sup> grade social studies course that examines the foundation, structure, and role of the US. Government and explores the components of the U.S Economy as well as various economic systems world-wide. ***This is a North Carolina graduation requirement and it is also assessed at the end of the year by a North Carolina End-of-Course test.*** C&E can be a very informative and rewarding course if you truly apply yourself to being successful!

**Course Overview:** C&E is divided into 9 instructional units that each cover one aspect of the course. We will focus on one goal at a time with a comprehensive assessment when we have finished each unit.

### **C&E Goals:**

- Goal One: American Citizenship & Identity
- Goal Two: Roots of Democracy and US Government
- Goal Three: The Constitution
- Goal Four: 3 Branches of Government
- Goal Five: Political Parties and Elections
- Goal Six: Law and Order
- Goal Seven: Introduction into Economics
- Goal Eight: Global Economics
- Goal Nine: Personal Financial Literacy

### **Course Materials:**

#### **Required:**

- **1 Composition Notebook (100 pgs+)**
- **Writing Utensils (Please, no fire colors- Red, Pink, Orange, Yellow, etc!)**
- **Glue Sticks**

### **Course Structure:**

**Grades:** Your Grade is based on the following weights;

- Formal Assessments (Tests and Projects): 70%
- Informal Assessments (Quizzes, Homework, Class work): 30%

Each goal will include multiple class work and homework assignments, at least one quiz, and a cumulative assessment.

The new CMS letter grading policy is as follows:

A: 90-100    B: 80-89    C: 70-79    D: 60-69    F: 59 and below

### **Participation:**

Because this is an EOC course and a graduation requirement, it is essential that every student is in class, on-time, and prepared to learn every day. This is also a course that focuses on the importance of civic responsibility, your role in a community, and social accountability. Together, we will create a community of responsible and successful individuals.

### Absences:

CMS has a 10-day attendance policy; if you miss more than 10 days of a course (no matter whether the absence is excused or unexcused), you will not receive credit for the course. Parents will be notified when a student has 3, 6, or 10 absences. Missing assignments due to absences must be handed in within the given time frame (2 days after absence).

### Discipline:

This classroom will be a 3D Free Zone! No Drama, No Disrespect, and No Disruptions! It is expected that every student show respect to all people and property in the classroom. Each student is guaranteed the right to an education, and disruptive behavior on the part of any student will not be tolerated. All discipline issues will be addressed according to the CMS Rights and Responsibilities handbook and enforced by an administrator.

### The Honor Code:

Honesty and integrity are two of the most important qualities an individual can possess. Any dishonest behavior, including but not limited to such acts as copying another student's work, giving someone your work to be copied, attempting to complete homework during class, forging a signature, or not telling the truth when asked are signs of a lack of integrity and will not be tolerated. The honor code will strictly be enforced and consequences for violations of the honor code will be applied.

### Additional Expectations:

- Each student is responsible for bringing (everyday) and staying current with their course notebook. If you don't have your notebook, you will not be prepared for the class and you may be missing necessary materials to be successful during that period. It will be up to YOU to make sure you work makes it in to your notebook correctly!
- **NO NAME, NO GRADE;** this ensures grades are given to the correct student and it also increases the level of accountability for each student.
- Re-Tests will be held after school. If you have failed a test you are **REQUIRED** to complete a Recovery Assignment and then re-test within TWO weeks of the test during an after-school tutoring period. I will not allow you to fail the course because of a bad day, but you must give the effort to show that you know the material. To save your time though, please keep up with the material and study the material the FIRST time requested.

### Honors Level C&E:

Students enrolled in Honors C&E should understand the requirements set forth by CMS in accordance with the state for an honors level course. Simply put, this course will be taught at a faster pace involving higher level thinking skills and will require more out-of-class assignments including nightly homework, research papers, and culminating projects.

### Chromebooks:

This course includes online aspects and students will have access to a Chromebook within the classroom. Students will sign a contract stating that they understand the rules to properly use the Chromebooks. Students may bring in their own technology to use, however, it should be noted that the CMS network may not allow full access to personal laptops and students will need to have access their CMS Student Google Account.

## C&E CONTRACT

**In order for everyone involved in the course to be successful, we must all make a commitment to ourselves and each other.**

Student Name; \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the course description and expectations for C&E. I understand my roles and responsibilities when it comes to my success. I understand that Mrs. Kurtz will do everything she can to not only teach me the content of the course, but to also help me understand the value of social responsibility, social accountability, and the importance of a community. If at any time I have questions or concerns about the class, I will ask Mrs. Kurtz.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name; \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the course description and expectations for C&E. I understand my roles and responsibilities in helping my student be as successful as possible. I will do all I can to support my student in this course both academically, socially, and behaviorally. If in the event I have any questions or concerns I will contact Mrs. Kurtz to resolve them.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name; \_\_\_\_\_

I have designed this course to allow every student to be successful both in the classroom and in life beyond high school. I will do all that I can to help every student reach their highest potential. I will always act with fairness and impartiality and do what I deem is best for each individual student. I will always be open to questions, concerns, and comments in order help everyone work together for the success of all students.

Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



**“It takes a village to raise a child.”**



## Welcome back to the Fall 2016 Semester Parents!



Hello! I am your child's Civics and Economics teacher, Mrs. Kurtz. This is my second year as a South Meck Sabre and I am thrilled to be a part of the team and working with your student and family! I graduated from NC State University and I am currently working on a Masters of Teaching in Social Studies at UNC Charlotte. My goal is for your student to be successful and inquisitive as we explore different aspects of the US government, politics, citizenship and activism, as well as financial literacy and US and Global economics! We cover a LOT of information in this semester!

Civics and Economics is a required course for graduation and at the end of the semester your student will be taking a NC Final Exam for the subject area. The grading scale this year has changed to a 10 point format throughout CMS and grade weights are as follows:

- Formal Assessments (Tests and Projects) - 70% of grade
- Informal Assessments (homework and classwork) - 30% of grade.

I am a fall sports coach, so the first month and a half of school, I will hold office hours upon request, but times will be limited due to practices. After the volleyball season is over (Mid October), I will hold after school office hours from 2:30- 3:30 on Mondays and Thursdays with extra availability through independent requests from the student. If there is any issue, please contact me and I will work with you and your student as much as possible!

As this is a team effort, I encourage you to include your child in discussions at home frequently about current events, politics, economics and personal finance – where you feel comfortable of course! Read or watch the news together, help them create and maintain a budget, or even just participate in your community together. I strive to have students formulate their own thoughts and opinions and what better way to start them thinking then through discussion both inside and outside of the classroom!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at [deannaj.kurtz@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:deannaj.kurtz@cms.k12.nc.us) or through my cell phone. My cell phone number is (919) 280-8924. I look forward to working with you and your student!

Sincerely,  
Deanna Kurtz

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Please cut and have student to return to Mrs. Kurtz by Wednesday, August 31, 2016.

Child's Name (and Nickname, if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Names and relation: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Day Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Evening Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Method of Communication (Phone, Email, Letter Home): \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Time of Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Important Information I Should Know about your student:

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