Dear Parents/Guardians,

 I am looking forward to teaching Civics & Economics to your son or daughter during the 2016-2017 academic year. Civics & Economics is a general course in government, politics, and various economic systems. During the semester we will be discussing such topics as democracy, the US Constitution, the three branches of all levels of government, political parties, voting/elections, and law. Upon completion of the course, students will be knowledgeable of contemporary political and social issues that have affected the United States both past and present. Please note that Civics & Economics is ***required*** for graduation in the state of North Carolina.

Students have been informed of the supplies that they will need for the class, the most important of these being a three ring binder (preferably with sleeves on the inside of the covers) with notebook paper. If you or your child have trouble acquiring one, please let me know and arrangements can be made.

 We at Athens Drive are implementing new grading policies so that a grade is a better representation of the student’s knowledge of the material. Therefore, there will be no extra credit, homework passes, or any points given that do not reflect your knowledge of material. Each student’s average will be calculated utilizing a percentage based grading system. Tests will make up 50% of their grade, quizzes 25%, homework 15%, and participation/classwork 10%.

 This year ALL students must attend at least two tutorial sessions per quarter. These sessions will count as a single quiz grade. (2 tutorial = 100% as a quiz grade, 1 tutorial = 50% as a quiz grade, 0 tutorials = 0%)

 Students will be allowed to correct tests for half credit. Half credit can be obtained on quizzes by re-quizzing. Likewise, any student who wishes to turn in late homework will have the opportunity to obtain half credit by doing an alternative enrichment assignment.

 I maintain a particularly orderly classroom environment. A copy of the classroom rules & expectations is posted on my webpage. Please read it carefully, have your child read it very carefully to ensure that he/she understands his/her responsibilities in my classroom.

 I look forward to a rewarding year working with you and your child to ensure his/her success in Civics & Economics. If you need to discuss your child’s progress, please feel free to call me during the school day at Athens Drive (233-4050) or via email at bharrington1@wcpss.net. Conferences may be scheduled for Tuesdays or Thursdays from 2:18 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. Thank you.

Brian Harrington

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

My website can be found on the Athens Drive webpage. (click departments, click Social Studies, click Civics)

ON MY WEBSITE, you may find …

1.) This letter

2.) Rules & Expectations

3.) Honors Expectations

4.) Intellectual Theft Policy

5.) Parent Homework Assignment (I ENCOURAGE YOU TO FILL THIS OUT ! !)

6.) … and MORE!!!

**Important Dates**:

Progress/Interim Reports: Weeks of 9/26 & 12/05

Early Release Days: 9/9, 9/30, 10/21, 10/30, 11/2

1st Quarter Ends: 10/28

2nd Quarter Ends: 1/24

Open House: 9/13

**Honor Code:**

Students at Athens Drive are expected to uphold the Athens Drive Honor Code. In cases where a violation of the honor code is suspected, the student(s) will be invited to meet privately with the instructor, the behavior discussed and necessary paperwork will be submitted according to ADHS Academic Integrity Violation Procedures. Please see the Athens Drive web site to learn more about our Academic Integrity Policy.

*\*STUDENTS CAUGHT CHEATING WILL RECEIVE A ZERO ON THE ASSIGNMENT, QUIZ, TEST OR PROJECT. NO MAKE-UP WILL BE ALLOWED.\**

*COPYING HOMEWORK IS CHEATING!*

**Final Grade Calculation:**

1st Quarter = 40% 2nd Quarter = 40% North Carolina Final Exam = 20%