



# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MONROE

*Preparing for the Future, One Child at a Time*

## Choices in American Democracy

### **Course Description:**

The curriculum for this required, unweighted, introductory course is developed from the [Wisconsin Standards for Social Studies](#). The course is divided into 2 parts, American Government and Economics, with each topic being explored in separate trimesters. In American Government, students will explore the depth of the U.S. political system. Students will define and evaluate their rights and responsibilities necessary to participate as a productive citizen within the framework of a federal system. The course is designed to focus on the following units: Foundations of American Government, Political Behavior, Legislative Branch, Executive Branch, and Judicial Branch. In Economics, students will develop an understanding of the basic principles and practices that make up the economic system of the United States and the world. The course is designed to focus on the following topics: Money, banking, business cycles, supply & demand, production, the national economy, and the role of government in the economy are among the topics explored in this trimester.

### **Mastery Standards:**

Wisconsin students will identify and analyze democratic principles and ideals. (SS.PS1)

Wisconsin students will examine and interpret rights, privileges, and responsibilities in society. (SS.PS2)

Wisconsin students will analyze and evaluate the powers and processes of political and civic institutions. (SS.PS3)

Wisconsin students will develop and employ skills for civic literacy. (SS.PS4)

Use economic reasoning to understand issues. (S.S. Econ 1.)

Analyze how decisions are made and interactions occur among individuals, households, and firms/businesses (Microeconomics). (SS.Econ 2)

Analyze how an economy functions as a whole (Macroeconomics). (SS.PS3)

Evaluate government decisions and their impact on individuals, businesses, markets, and resources (Role of Government). (S.S. Econ 4)

Assess economic interdependence of regions and countries through trade. (S.S. Econ 5)

Unit	Description of Unit and Learning Targets
<p><b>Unit Title: Foundations of American Government</b></p> <p><u>Essential Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the goals of American Government?</li> </ul>	<p>Students will.....</p> <p><u>Learning Targets:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify democratic principles</li> <li>Analyze how the Constitution embodies democratic principles and ideals</li> </ul>
<p><b>Unit Title: The Branches of Government</b></p> <p><u>Essential Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What makes a successful civic institution (legislative branch, executive branch &amp; judicial branch)?</li> </ul>	<p>Students will...</p> <p><u>Learning Targets:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compare the powers of the three branches of American Government</li> <li>Evaluate the process the three branches of American Government uses to govern</li> </ul>

<p><b>Unit Title: Political Behavior</b></p> <p><u>Essential Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In what ways can people participate in public affairs?</li> </ul>	<p>Students will...</p> <p><u>Learning Targets:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distinguish between rights, privileges and responsibilities in American society.</li> <li>• Assess the impact of rights, privileges and responsibilities on American citizens.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Unit Title: Participating in Government</b></p> <p><u>Essential Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can I be civically engaged?</li> </ul>	<p>Students will...</p> <p><u>Learning Targets:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify opportunities for civic engagement</li> <li>• Interpret claims and counterclaims regarding a civic issue</li> </ul>
<p><b>Unit Title: Intro to Economic Thinking</b></p> <p><u>Essential Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does economics affect everyone?</li> </ul>	<p>Students will.....</p> <p><u>Learning Targets:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine how we can make the best economic choices.</li> <li>• Analyze the role of scarcity in decision making.</li> <li>• Explain how each economic system answers the three basic questions.</li> <li>• Identify the major characteristics of a free enterprise/market based system.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Unit Title: How Markets Work</b></p> <p><u>Essential Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who benefits from the free market</li> </ul>	<p>Students will...</p> <p><u>Learning Targets:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate how the laws of supply and demand influence producer and consumer behavior.</li> <li>• Assess the role prices play in the free market economy.</li> <li>• Compare and contrast various degrees of competition in markets.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Unit Title: Micro to Macro</b></p> <p><u>Essential Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can individuals, businesses and labor best achieve their financial goals?</li> </ul>	<p>Students will...</p> <p><u>Learning Targets:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compare and contrast different types of businesses.</li> <li>• Summarize the role of labor in a market economy.</li> <li>• Describe the impact of financial institutions and investment options in a free-market economy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Unit Title: Measuring Economic Performance</b></p> <p><b>Standard:</b> Analyze how an economy functions as a whole (Macroeconomics). (SS.PS3)</p> <p><u>Essential Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why does it matter how the economy is doing?</li> </ul>	<p>Students will...</p> <p><u>Learning Targets:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakdown factors that influence the health of the economy</li> <li>• Justify methods to reduce poverty, inflation, unemployment</li> </ul>

<p><b>Unit Title: Government &amp; the Economy</b></p> <p><b>Standard:</b> Evaluate government decisions and their impact on individuals, businesses, markets, and resources (Role of Government). (S.S. Econ 4)</p> <p><u>Essential Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the proper role of government in the economy?</li> </ul>	<p>Students will...</p> <p><u>Learning Targets:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct an argument about how taxes influence the economy</li> <li>• Predict and evaluate the impact of fiscal policy &amp; monetary policy actions</li> </ul>
<p><b>Unit Title: Global Economy</b></p> <p><b>Standard:</b> Assess economic interdependence of regions and countries through trade. (S.S. Econ 5)</p> <p><u>Essential Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How might scarcity divide our world or bring it together?</li> </ul>	<p>Students will...</p> <p><u>Learning Targets:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Argue whether or not free trade should be encouraged.</li> <li>• Debate the benefits and costs of economic development.</li> </ul>