



## ***Middle Grades Civics***

**There is a statewide, standardized end-of-course exam for Civics that must be taken and factored in as 30% of a student's course grade.**

**This guide will support parents and families with children in middle grades Civics by helping you:**

- Learn about the middle grades Civics Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and why they matter for your child.
- Talk with your child's teachers about what they will be learning in the classroom.
- Support your child's learning in practical ways at home.

**Florida students will continue to practice many of the same things you learned in Civics, along with some important additional skills. Some of the concepts being covered in your child's class are:**

- Analysis of the Declaration of Independence and Constitution.
- The responsibilities of citizens at the local, state or federal levels.
- Sources and types of law.
- The significance and outcomes of certain landmark Supreme Court cases.
- Constitutional rights and their impact on individuals and society.

# Support Learning at Home



**You can encourage learning Civics at home in ways that are fun for you and your child. Try these ideas after school, on weekends and during the summer:**

- Read the founding documents together and discuss what life was like for citizens at the time that led to these documents being written.
- Make a family chart that keeps track of examples of good citizenship by each member of the family. Celebrate your accomplishments at the end of every month.
- Attend civic meetings in your area – school board meetings, town/county council meetings or public meetings sponsored by your state representatives to the legislature.
- Read the opinion page of your local newspaper together and discuss the ways that the media influences our perceptions of government.
- Take your child with you to the voting booth.
- Discuss current events as they relate to your family life at the dinner table or in the car.
- Access student resources aligned to the standards at <http://floridastudents.org/>.



*Every child develops at their own pace. The activities in this guide are recommended age-specific guidelines for growing young minds.*

