**CIVICS & ECONOMICS Standards…in kid friendly terms**

You play an integral role in your community, as well as the political, governmental, and economic systems in the United States. You also have a voice! It is my hope that you will learn to use that voice and take with you a sense of right & wrong and how you can change the world! ☺

**CE1 These are the skills I hope you will leave BRMS knowing how to do:** understand primary and secondary sources, explain maps, diagrams, tables, charts, graphs, & spreadsheets, analyze political cartoons & other graphic media, extinguish the difference between relevant & irrelevant information…accuracy…fact & opinion, enhance your decision-making skills, AND defend your opinions through writing, discussions, & debate!

**CE2 The foundations our government:**

1. The five principles that define our government (Consent of the Governed, Limited Government, Rule of Law, Democracy, Representative Government)
2. The seven documents that made us who we are (Charters of the VA Company of London, VA Declaration of Rights, Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, VA Statute of Religious Freedom, U.S. Constitution, and Bill of Rights)
3. Why the Preamble was written and what it means
4. How you can change, or amend, the VA Constitution and U.S. Constitution

**CE3 Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities of citizenship:**

1. How a person becomes a U.S. citizen
2. The 1st Amendment freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly, & petition
3. Duties of citizenship
4. Responsibilities of citizenship
5. How you can serve the community

**CE4 The personal characteristic traits that can help you participate in civic life:**

1. Trustworthiness & Honesty
2. Courtesy & Respect for Others
3. Responsibility, Accountability, & Self-Reliance
4. Respect for the Law
5. Patriotism
6. Decision-Making
7. Service to School & Community

**CE5 Everything you need to know about the political process:**

1. What political parties do
2. How political parties are similar & different
3. How the media impacts political campaigns
4. The costs of political campaign
5. The importance of voting
6. The Electoral College
7. Simulated elections

**CE6 Our government at the NATIONAL level:**

1. Structure & Powers
2. Separation of Powers and Checks & Balances
3. How a bill becomes a law
4. Roles & Powers of the President

**CE7 Our government at the STATE level:**

1. Structure & Powers
2. Relationship between the national & state governments
3. How a bill becomes a law
4. Roles & Powers of the Governor & regulatory boards

**CE8 Our government at the LOCAL level:**

1. Structure & Powers
2. Relationship between the state & local governments
3. Simulating lawmaking process

**CE9 How public policy is made:**

1. The impact of media on public policy & public opinion
2. How to influence public policy
3. International issues on local decision-making

**CE10 The Judicial System:**

1. Organization of State & Federal Courts
2. Judicial Review
3. Comparing & Contrasting civil & criminal cases
4. How Due Process protects you

**CE11 Economic Decisions:**

1. Economic concepts/terms
2. Comparing economies
3. U.S. economic characteristics

**CE12 How the U.S. economy works:**

1. Types of businesses
2. Circular flow & interactions
3. Financial institutions
4. Virginia, U.S., & the global economy

**CE13 The role of the government in the U.S. economy:**

1. Competition
2. Public goods & services
3. Taxes
4. Federal Reserve
5. Consumer & property rights
6. Currency in many forms

**CE14 Personal Finance & Career Opportunities:**

1. What influences career choice
2. What strengthens work ethic & promotes career success
3. Abilities, skills, & education
4. How technology has changed us
5. The importance of education
6. Financial responsibilities