



AUBURN CITY SCHOOLS
AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL
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May 7, 2018

Dear AHS parents and guardians,

As family members supporting a member of our current junior class, you have no doubt begun to think about the many exciting things that await your student as senior year approaches. We want to take this opportunity to share with you about a new state mandate that takes effect with your student's class.

In 2017, Gov. Kay Ivey and the Alabama Legislature approved a measure that will require seniors, beginning with the Class of 2019, to pass a civics test as a requirement for graduation. The civics test is to be based on the U.S. citizenship examination given to people seeking to become American citizens. It will be 100 questions in multiple-choice format, focusing primarily on American history, government structure, geography, and the responsibilities and privileges of citizenship. The test will be scored on a pass/fail basis, with 60 percent being the threshold for passage. According to the legislation, students may take the test as many times as it is necessary to achieve a passing score.

Educators in our social studies department have worked diligently to establish our compliance with this measure and help your student prepare for this opportunity. In coming days, hard copies of our teacher-created study guide will be distributed through Tiger Connect classes, and electronic copies will be available on our Auburn High School webpage. In addition, the webpage will offer other web-based resources to supplement preparation, like practice tests.

Our plan is to administer the civics test during the first week of school in August through your student's advisory class. We will then identify students who need more targeted support to achieve passage and engage those students in mandatory civics study groups, led by our government teachers, that will meet at least weekly until each student has passed the test.

We encourage you to discuss this new requirement with your student and emphasize the importance of actively preparing for the civics test. It is our intention and expectation that the large majority of our students will pass in the initial test administration.

If you have any questions, please contact us at (334) 887-2120. We look forward to greeting your rising seniors and beginning to celebrate their success in August. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Shannon Pignato, Ph.D.
AHS Principal