THE CONSTITUTION

September 17th is Constitution Day! The Constitution is the basis for our government in the United States and is a set of rules for the country. Learn how it spells out how the government is formed. Students will learn about why we need rules and begin to create a classroom “constitution.”

Kansas College and Career Ready Standards for Government
- Standard 2: Individuals have rights and responsibilities

Classroom teacher will need to supply the following materials:
- Copies of the student page (one per student)
- Pencils
- Whiteboard or chart paper and marker (for teacher use)

Activity:
Rules, Rules, Rules
Materials: None

Activity:
What is the Constitution?
Materials: None

Activity:
Examine the Preamble
Materials: Student page, pencils

Activity:
Create a Classroom Constitution
Materials: Student page, pencils, whiteboard or chart paper, markers
Program Connection Information

*Please use an external microphone (conference style) rather than the integrated one in the computer for the audio for your class and locate it centrally in the room. It can be difficult for the Greenbush teacher to hear the students using the computer microphone and therefore it reduces the interactive nature of the lesson. It is fine to use the computer webcam for your video source.*

All classes will take place using Zoom desktop video. If your building is already set up to use a desktop video application with a computer, simply open a browser and enter [https://zoom.us/j/3662120241](https://zoom.us/j/3662120241) in the URL space. You may need to download Zoom launcher software (free download) if you don't already have it. This needs to be done in advance of the lesson.

If using a Polycom video conferencing unit (or any legacy type video conferencing unit) to connect to a ZOOM conference, make sure the unit is in "encrypted mode" then dial the following IP on the internet: 162.255.37.11 or 162.255.36.11 and once connected, they will ask for a MEETING ID: enter 3662120241 (for Sharon at Science Center).

It's always a good idea to touch base with your district technology facilitator prior to your program to make sure all systems/equipment are in place and operational and that there aren't any firewalls in place that might prevent you from connecting to Zoom.

Once you connect, you will enter a Zoom waiting room. Your Greenbush teacher will admit you into the final meeting room.

If you have questions, please call Sharon Bertolio at Greenbush, 620-724-6281, or email at [sharon.bertolio@greenbush.org](mailto:sharon.bertolio@greenbush.org) (best method of contact).
Our Classroom Constitution

The Preamble

Many constitutions begin with a brief preamble, or introduction, that states the purpose and goals of the document. Use the following preamble as a model of what to include in your own preamble.

Preamble to the Constitution

“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

In Other Words

We the people of the United States, want to form a better country, create a fair and just legal system, have peace inside the country, defend our country from other countries, help everyone live a better life, and make sure things last during our lifetimes and our children’s lifetimes. Therefore, we make and authorize this plan of government for the United States of America.

With your group, develop a preamble to your classroom constitution. Be sure to include major goals you hope to promote in the constitution.

We, the Students of __________________________’s class, in order to ________________________________, ________________________________, and ________________________________,

______________________________,

______________________________,

do order and create this Constitution for the 2017-2018 school year.

The Constitution

Your classroom constitution will be made up of “laws” to promote order so that your class functions smoothly. With your group, develop a list of three or four rules that you would like to see included in the classroom constitution. Be sure to consider the following when creating your list:

- Rights and responsibilities of students
- Rights and responsibilities of teacher
- How rights and responsibilities will be enforced
- Rules for maintaining order among students

Each group explains the importance of the rules they wrote. Then as a class, create a class list of 6-8 rules for the classroom, with some rules removed, others changed or combined. Your teacher can record these for you.

Your teacher will write the rules on a large poster board or chart paper, and each student will sign his/her name, agreeing to follow the Constitution.