



Eighth Grade at Westgate Christian Academy



Foundations of Governments

Summary

At the eighth grade level the students study the foundations of governments in the ancient world and today. Encompassing the Greek and Roman eras and continuing through the major types of world governments, the students will study the reasons behind the formation of the government, its strengths and weaknesses, and its eventual success or downfall. Special emphasis will be placed on the United States government, its foundations and history, and the current systems in the governmental organization.

Concept Statements

1. Governments are formed for protection, social order, and to provide services for the common good.
2. All governments have structure.
3. All governments have philosophical roots about God, society, and the nature of man.
4. All governments exercise some degree of authority over the citizenry.
5. Different forms of government have evolved through history.
6. People who are in control of government express their beliefs in certain ways and may utilize their power to do so.
7. Governments change as a result of revolution, reforms, or being conquered.

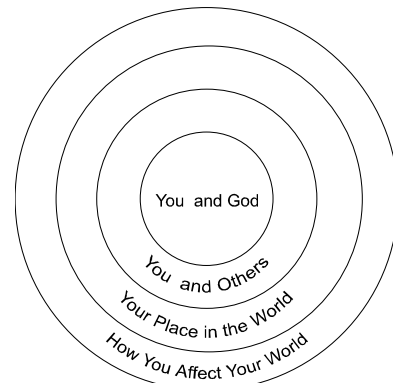
Thematic Units

Thematic Units are organized around a particular theme. For the eighth grade this theme is “Foundations of Governments” This theme is then infused into all the basic subjects such as reading and science with hands on exploration. This is based on the idea that children learn best in the context of the “whole,” and when they can connect subjects together with the real world. The culminating unit involves a project that links the units studied to the student’s life. In eighth grade, this unit is “Developing Your Own Foundation.” The thematic units for eighth grade are:

Ancient Grecian Government	Ancient Roman Government
Ancient Asian Governments	Communism
European Governments	United States Government
Developing Your Own Foundation	

The Big Picture

The curriculum can be translated into a visual model that looks like a target. In the center of the target is the child’s relationship with God which is the primary focus. As we move from the center, the child begins to understand how he or she relates to others, how he or she has a place in this world and finally how this world is affected by the child’s actions.



Subject	Curriculum	Projects/Units
History	Foundations of Governments	Ancient Grecian Government Ancient Asian Government Ancient Roman Government European Government Communism United States Government Developing Your Own Foundation
Geography	Developed within History	The geography of Europe, Colonial empires, and Ancient civilizations will be studied
Bible	Developed within History	Genesis through II Kings The Gospel of John
Mathematics	Saxon 87, Algebra ½ or Algebra 1 (Placement Testing done at beginning of year)	<i>Numbers and Operations:</i> Includes writing numbers in base 2, adding binary numbers, using scientific notation, and working with fractions <i>Patterns, Functions, and Algebra:</i> Includes reflexive and symmetric property and graphing inequalities <i>Geometry, Spatial Sense, and Measurement:</i> Includes describing curves, identifying sine, cosine and tangent and constructing angles <i>Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability:</i> Includes determining the probability or chance of an event <i>Representation:</i> Includes graphing points, equations, functions, and inequalities <i>Problem Solving and Reasoning:</i> Includes applying geometric formulas or theorems
Reading	Individual Novel Units	Includes novels such as <i>Animal Farm, Julius Caesar, Hiding Place,</i> and <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> Vocabulary and reading comprehension activities are also utilized during the study of the novels
Writing	Write Source 2000 Level 8	Journal Writing Autobiographical Writing Writing a Friendly Letter Biographical Writing Revising Your Writing Editing and Proofreading Expository Essays Business Letters Summaries Research Papers Poetry Persuasive Essays Compiling a Semester Portfolio *Grammar is incorporated into the Writer's Express program
Spelling	Program developed within English	Program uses current vocabulary words and students work with structure of word as well as etymology.
Typing	Mavis Beacon Typing Program	Computer time is utilized for composing papers and building speed.
Science	Prentice Hall	A course involving earth, health, and physical science with an emphasis on life science.