

Dear Families,

This year will be an exciting time for the students in my classroom. They will be learning social studies concepts in a highly engaging way.

Our school is using *Civics Alive! Foundations and Functions*. This program truly engages students in learning. Instead of being a passive observer, your student will be an active participant, experiencing civics through imaginative teaching practices that include dramatic role playing, dynamic group projects, and writing evidence-based arguments. Your student's program contains exciting online resources, including biographies, lesson games, and reading support. In addition, they will have an Interactive Student Notebook to help them organize ideas.

Curious about what your child will be learning this year? This year, students are introduced to the basics of the United States government, as well as the foundations for participating in their local community. Students will find these challenging topics pretty fascinating as they answer questions about their world, such as "How do Supreme Court decisions affect the United States?" and "How are your rights defined and protected under the Constitution?" They will encounter real-world case studies and examine Supreme Court Cases.

As we move through these exciting times in history, you can support your child's academic progress by following these tips:

- Discuss history and current events with your child, and listen to what your child has to say.
- Ask to see your child's work on a regular basis so that you can see for yourself what your child is learning.
- Finally, extend learning beyond the walls of the classroom by encouraging your child to notice civics, economics, geography, and history in their own community. This can take many forms including visiting a historic monument in your community, taking your child with you when you vote, or discussing how your local climate impacts choices you make.

I want to thank you in advance for your support. I am looking forward to an exciting, enjoyable, and enriching year working with you and your child.

Sincerely,

Your child's teacher