

**Madison Board of Education, Madison District #1**

Americanism/American Civics  
Monday, April 15, 2024 6:30 PM  
Conference Room, Madison Middle/High School  
700 South Kent St.  
Madison, NE 68748-0450

*The sequence of items on the agenda is provided as a courtesy. The board reserves the right to consider items in any sequence deemed appropriate. Therefore, visitors are encouraged to attend the meeting from the beginning.*

1. Call Americanism/American Civics meeting to order
  - 1.1. Roll Call/Excuse absent Board members
  - 1.2. Pledge of Allegiance
  - 1.3. Declare the meeting to be open, legal, and properly advertised
2. Discuss Americanism/American Civics
3. Receive public comments
4. Adjournment

*The board reserves the right to enter executive session if it deems it necessary to prevent needless injury to a staff member's reputation or for the protection of the public interest.*



# Committee on American Civics

Spring Meeting: April 15, 2024

# Elementary Music

*Last Spring, students in grades K-5 music, 4th grade recorders and 5th grade band learned patriotic songs and performed them at the April Concert.*

*This year, the Kindergarten and 1st grade have spent time learning new patriotic songs to add to their library.*



**Madison Public Schools**  
April 21, 2023 · 🌐

Attention all music lovers: Our K-5 Spring Concert will be held next Thursday, April 27, at 6:00 P.M. in the old high school gym. Please join us for an evening of patriotic tunes, folk songs, and some brief instrumental pieces. See you there! 🎵🎸🎹

[#weRmadison](#)



Spring  
Concert

The graphic features the words "Spring Concert" in a large, purple, serif font. The text is surrounded by several colorful, stylized flowers in shades of yellow, purple, green, blue, and orange. The flowers are scattered around the text, with some appearing to be in bloom and others as buds. The background is white.

# 6-12 Music

*(2) Materials stress contributions of all ethnic groups to (a) the development and growth of America into a great nation, (b) art, music, education, medicine, literature, science, politics, and government, and (c) the military in all of this nation's wars.*

Ms. Knight begins each class with a “[bell-ringer](#)” activity to expose students to a variety of different musical genres. A lot of time is spent diving into Indigenous and Colonial American Folk and how music evolved with the blending of cultures and themes.

The 8th graders complete a whole genre project where they learn about several different genres, but take a deep dive into one of their choice and are able to describe it and find evidence of it and then construct their own example of it.

# 8th Grade

During 8th grade, students spend a lot of time on American History and Government. Before leaving Middle School, students write a “Contemporary America Paper” with the intent of them identifying what the strengths as well as limitations of our country are in their eyes.

One of the last exercises before starting their papers was to listen to and discuss Martin Luther King Junior’s *I Have a Dream* speech (60 years later.) Students did some journaling to help process their thoughts and feelings about whether or not we have made progress since that time and how they feel our country has evolved since 1963.

Another project that helps students develop their understanding of our country and government is the Family Tree project. Students learn about their families and what experiences they have had. Students will present on how their family arrived in the United States, Nebraska, and eventually in Madison. They share stories of why they may have left another country, what experiences they have had in the past and how it has allowed them to live the way they do now here in Madison.

# High School

Students in the Youth Leadership Council attended a legislative session. Here they are at the Capitol with Senator Robert Dover (District 19) from Norfolk.



# High School (cont.)

Senior government students spend the second semester finalizing their understanding of our Government and their place/duties in it. Here are two of the major final projects.

*(a) The Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the Constitution of Nebraska, and the structure and function of local government in this state;*

## [Executive Branch Deep Dive](#)

*(b) The benefits and advantages of representative government, the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in our government, and the dangers and fallacies of forms of government that restrict individual freedoms or possess antidemocratic ideals such as, but not limited to, Nazism and communism;*

## [Political Theories vs U.S.A](#)