

**AMERICAN CIVICS COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION -  
AGENDA**

**Alma Public Schools**

**Monday, May 9, 2022**

- A. Call to Order and announce location of Open Meetings Act Poster
  - A.1. Verification of Receipt of Notice, which was published in the Harlan County Journal
  - A.2. Roll of Board Members - Excuse absent board members
  - A.3. Minutes from Previous Meetings
- B. Request to address the Board
- C. Action Items - Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action
  - C.1. to review the American Civics Guidelines & Checklist.
  - C.2. to review the schools' American Civics plan and teachers' comments on what they are doing in the classroom and make changes if necessary.
- D. Next Regular Meeting
- E. Adjourn

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE ALMA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2 WILL DISCUSS, CONSIDER, OR TAKE ACTION ON ALL ISSUES MENTIONED IN THIS AGENDA.

MINUTES OF THE AMERICAN CIVICS COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF ALMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS 5-10-21

A meeting of the Alma Public Schools Board of Education was convened in open and public session on Monday, May 10, 2021, at 6:40 PM at The Library at Alma Public Schools 515 Jewell Street Alma, NE 68920.

The roll was called and the following Board members were present or absent: Absent: None Prickett, Present: Nick Simonson, Samantha Stuhmer, Kate Hopkins. Present: 3, Absent: 0

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication and/or posted in accordance with the Board approved method for giving notice of meetings. Notice of this meeting and hearing were given in advance to all members of the Board of Education. The Secretary of the Board maintains a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and advance notification to the listed media of the time and place of the meeting and the subjects to be discussed at this meeting was provided. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the publicized notice and a current copy of the agenda was maintained as stated in the publicized notice. All proceedings of the Board of Education, except as may be hereinafter noted, were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

A motion was made by Kate Hopkins and seconded by Nick Simonson to Motion to approve the verification of receipt of notice. After discussion and on roll call vote the Board voted as follows: Passed. Samantha Stuhmer: Yea, Kate Hopkins: Yea, Nick Simonson: Yea, Yea: 3, Nay: 0

A motion was made by Nick Simonson and seconded by Samantha Stuhmer to None to approve the minutes from the previous meetings. After discussion and on roll call vote the Board voted as follows: Passed. Kate Hopkins: Yea, Samantha Stuhmer: Yea, Nick Simonson: Yea, Yea: 3, Nay: 0

A motion was made by Nick Simonson and seconded by Kate Hopkins to Motion made to accept the previous information as presented and make no changes... After discussion and on roll call vote the Board voted as follows: Passed. Nick Simonson: Yea, Kate Hopkins: Yea, Samantha Stuhmer: Yea: Yea: 3, Nay: 0

A motion was made by Samantha Stuhmer and seconded by Kate Hopkins to Motion made to approve the American Civics plans as presented.. After discussion and on roll call vote the Board voted as follows: Passed. Samantha Stuhmer: Yea, Nick Simonson: Yea, Kate Hopkins: Yea Yea: 3, Nay: 0

A motion was made by Nick Simonson and seconded by Samantha Stuhmer to Motion made to adjourn.. After discussion and on roll call vote the Board voted as follows: Passed. Kate Hopkins: Yea, Samantha Stuhmer: Yea, Nick Simonson: Yea, Yea: 3, Nay: 0

DATED Monday, May 10, 2021

HARLAN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #2,

a/k/a ALMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

James B. Gessford  
Rex R. Schultze\*\*\*  
Daniel F. Kaplan  
Gregory H. Perry  
Joseph F. Bachmann\*  
R. J. Shortridge\*  
Joshua J. Schauer\*  
Derek A. Aldridge\*\*  
Justin J. Knight\*\*\*\*  
Charles Kaplan  
Haleigh B. Carlson  
Daniel K. Kaplan



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PERRY, GUTHERY, HAASE & GESSFORD, P.C., L.L.O.

Of Counsel  
John M. Guthery  
Thomas M. Haase  
Richard D. Sievers  
Kelley Baker

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\*Also admitted in Iowa  
\*\* Also admitted in Kansas  
\*\*\*Also admitted in Wyoming  
\*\*\*\*Also admitted in Colorado

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Ernest B. Perry (1876-1962)  
Arthur E. Perry (1910-1982)  
R.R. Perry (1917-1999)  
Edwin C. Perry (1931-2012)

## MEMORANDUM ON LB 399

During this legislative session, Governor Ricketts signed LB 399 into law. LB 399 has been referred to as the “Americanism” bill because of its requirements regarding American history and civics instruction in the classroom. This memorandum outlines the bill’s requirements and the timelines for school districts to incorporate these requirements.

### THE “OLD” LAW

Under the “old”<sup>1</sup> law, every school board was required to appoint three members to a “committee on Americanism.” This committee was required to undertake several steps, including reviewing the curriculum to ensure that students were taught about the American form of government. The “old” law included a very harsh consequence for districts that failed to meet all of the statute’s requirements: both the board and the superintendent “shall be held directly responsible” for implementing the law, and the failure of a school district to abide by the law “shall be considered cause for removal.”

### THE “NEW” LAW

LB 399 becomes operative three months after the Legislature adjourns. The current belief is that the final day of the session will be May 31. Assuming that date holds, LB 399 will become operative in September. This means that the majority of LB 399’s requirements will become effective during the 2019-2020 school year. As a result, school districts need to begin taking steps this summer to ensure that they will be in compliance with the law when the bill becomes law.

LB 399 imposes the following requirements that must be met:

1. Each calendar year, the Board must appoint three board members to the “Committee on American Civics.”<sup>2</sup>
  - a. The Committee on American Civics must meet at least twice per year. One meeting must include public testimony. The Committee is to keep minutes of each meeting showing the time and place of

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<sup>1</sup> The reference to the “old” law is to the current Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-724. The current version of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-724 will remain in effect until LB 399 becomes operative in September 2019.

<sup>2</sup> The school board of each school district shall, at the beginning of each calendar year, appoint from its members a committee of three, to be known as the committee on American civics . . . ” LB 399, Sec. 1(1) (emphasis supplied). Note that the law specifically requires that “three” board members be appointed to the committee (and not “at least” three board members).

the meeting, which members were present or absent, and the substance and details of all matters discussed.

- b. During the meetings, the Committee is to review the social studies curriculum to ensure that it aligns with NDE standards and LB 399's requirements. (A copy of the law with the curriculum requirements is attached to this memo.)
2. Students between eighth grade and twelfth grade must complete one of the following:
    - i. Administration of a written test that is identical to the entire civics portion of the naturalization test used by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services prior to the completion of eighth grade and again prior to the completion of twelfth grade with the individual score from each test for each student made available to a parent or guardian of such student; or
    - ii. Attendance or participation between the commencement of eighth grade and completion of twelfth grade in a meeting of a public body . . . followed by the completion of a project or paper in which each student demonstrates or discusses the personal learning experience of such student related to such attendance or participation; or
    - iii. Completion of a project or paper and a class presentation between the commencement of eighth grade and the completion of twelfth grade on a person or persons or an event commemorated by a holiday listed below.
  3. For grade levels below sixth grade, at least one hour per week is to be devoted to exercises or teaching American history topics (including those listed in LB 399).
  4. For grade levels between fifth grade and eighth grade, there must be time "set aside" for the teaching of American history (including those topics listed in LB 399).
  5. In at least two courses in every high school, time shall be devoted to the teaching of civics and American history (as outlined in LB 399).
  6. "Appropriate patriotic exercises" are to be held on George Washington's birthday, Abraham Lincoln's birthday, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, Native American Heritage Day, Constitution Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving Day, or on the day or week preceding or following such holiday, if the school is in session.

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If the district does not comply with these requirements, the harsh consequence under the “old” law is not included in LB 399. Indeed, under the “new” law, there is no “penalty” for a superintendent or board who fails to implement the law’s requirements. Instead, an employee who neglects to carry out the law’s requirements *may* be cause for dismissal.

#### **OVERALL**

This bill includes a number of legal requirements—some new and others that were in place under the “old” bill. In any event, now is a good time for districts to plan and ensure that they are in compliance with the “new” law prior to the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year. Districts that currently have an Americanism committee (pursuant to the “old” law) should rename the committee to be the “Committee on American Civics.” In order to help schools with the “new” requirements, we have attached a “checklist” for the Committee on American Civics to complete each year.

**COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN CIVICS CHECKLIST**

For the calendar year \_\_\_\_\_, the Board appointed the following three members to serve on the Committee on American Civics: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

The Committee on American Civics met on the following dates: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. *(At least two meetings per year are required.)* The Committee accepted public testimony on the following date: \_\_\_\_\_.

The Committee completed the following tasks *(check when completed)*:

\_\_\_\_\_ Minutes of the Committee on American Civics' meetings have been kept and show the time and place of the meeting, which members were present or absent, and the substance and details of all matters discussed.

\_\_\_\_\_ Confirmed the District's social studies curriculum is aligned with NDE standards.

\_\_\_\_\_ Confirmed that the District's social studies curriculum stresses the required patriotic themes.

\_\_\_\_\_ Confirmed that the District's social studies curriculum includes a requirement, in accordance with state law, that high school students (i) complete a written test; (ii) attend a public meeting; or (iii) present or write a paper on an appropriate topic.

\_\_\_\_\_ Confirmed that the curriculum approved by the Committee is available for public inspection.

\_\_\_\_\_ Confirmed that the District's social studies curriculum includes all required components, in accordance with state law and NDE standards, including (a) one hour per week of patriotic instruction for grade levels below sixth grade; (b) a set amount of time to teach American history for grade levels from fifth grade to eighth grade; and (c) at least two courses in high school that teach American civics.

\_\_\_\_\_ Confirmed that the District will conduct appropriate patriotic exercises for the following holidays: George Washington's birthday, Abraham Lincoln's birthday, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, Native American Heritage Day, Constitution Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving Day.

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COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN CIVICS CHECKLIST

For the calendar year 2022, the Board appointed the following three members to serve on the Committee on American Civics: Nick Simonson, Samantha Schubert and Kate Hopkins.

The Committee on American Civics met on the following dates: 5-9-2022 and \_\_\_\_\_, (At least two meetings per year are required.) The Committee accepted public testimony on the following date: 5-9-2022.

The Committee completed the following tasks (check when completed):

Minutes of the Committee on American Civics' meetings have been kept and show the time and place of the meeting, which members were present or absent, and the substance and details of all matters discussed.

Confirmed the District's social studies curriculum is aligned with NDE standards. we use NDE's standards

Confirmed that the District's social studies curriculum stresses the required patriotic themes.

Confirmed that the District's social studies curriculum includes a requirement, in accordance with state law, that high school students (i) complete a written test; (ii) attend a public meeting; or (iii) present or write a paper on an appropriate topic. 8th - 12th grade

Confirmed that the curriculum approved by the Committee is available for public inspection.

Confirmed that the District's social studies curriculum includes all required components, in accordance with state law and NDE standards, including (a) one hour per week of patriotic instruction for grade levels below sixth grade; (b) a set amount of time to teach American history for grade levels from fifth grade to eighth grade; and (c) at least two courses in high school that teach American civics.

Confirmed that the District will conduct appropriate patriotic exercises for the following holidays: George Washington's birthday, Abraham Lincoln's birthday, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, Native American Heritage Day, Constitution Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving Day.

# Alma Public Schools

## Committee on American Civics

### Guidelines

1. The Committee on American Civics: Each year (January reorganization meeting) the school board will appoint 3 board members to serve on the Committee.
2. The Committee must meet at least twice per year.
3. One of those meetings shall allow public testimony.
4. The Committee is required to keep minutes of each meeting showing the time and place of the meeting, those in attendance and the substance and details of all matters discussed.
5. The Committee is to:
  - a. Examine the social studies curriculum to ensure that it aligns with NDE Standards, LB 399's requirements and teaches foundational knowledge in civics, history, economics, financial literacy, and geography.
  - b. Review and approve the social studies curriculum to ensure that it stresses the services of the men and women who played a crucial role in our national independence.
  - c. Ensure that the approved curriculum is accessible to the public and the district develops and utilizes formative, interim, and summative assessments.
6. All social studies courses approved shall include and adequately 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 war.
7. Students in 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade will take a written test used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services prior to the completion of 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
8. The individual student's score from the test will be made available to a parent or guardian of the student.
9. Grade levels below 6<sup>th</sup> grade: At least one hour per week is to be devoted to exercises teaching American history topics. Noteworthy events pertaining to American history or the exceptional acts of individuals and groups of Americans; The historical background, memorization, and singing of patriotic songs – the Star Spangled Banner, American the Beautiful; The development of respect for the American flag as a symbol of freedom and the sacrifices of those who secured that freedom and the proper conduct in the presentation of the American flag.
10. Between 5<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade there must be time "set aside" for the teaching of American History. All students shall be taught in such a manner that all students are given the opportunity to (a) become competent, responsible, patriotic, and civil citizens who possess a deep understanding of and respect for both the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Nebraska and (b) prepare to preserve, protect, and defend freedom and democracy in our nation and our world.

11. At least two courses in every high school shall be devoted to the teaching of civics and American history. **(a)** The Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the Constitution of Nebraska, and the structure and function of local government in this state; **(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; **(c)** The duties of citizenship, which include active participation in the improvement of a citizen's community, state, country, and world and the value and practice of civil discourse between opposing interests; and **(d)** The application of knowledge in civics, history, economics, financial literacy, and geography to address societal issues.
12. "Appropriate patriotic exercises" are to be held on George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. birthdays, Native American Heritage Day (Columbus Day), Constitution Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving Day, or on the day or week preceding or following such holiday, if the school is in session.
13. Every school board, the State Board of Education, and the superintendent of each school district in the state shall be held directly responsible in the order named for carrying out this section. Neglect thereof by any employee may be considered a cause for dismissal

# American Civics Comments

## May - 2022

**Amanda Siebels:** (Kindergarten)

I have the American flag displayed in my classroom and we participate in the Pledge of Allegiance every day.

We participate in the annual Veteran's Day program and discuss the different branches of the Armed Forces prior to the program.

I use Scholastic News and Time for Kids that cover the holidays such as Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day, and Memorial Day. We talk greatly about Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Martin Luther King Jr. and talk about the current president each year and what his job is. During years of a presidential election, we learn who gets to vote, why we vote, and hold a pretend voting poll in our classroom.

We also do many other activities that relate to all above mentioned holidays. I read many non-fiction books to the class about most of these holidays and discuss why we honor these days.

**Jenna Christensen:** (1<sup>st</sup> grade)

In our classroom, we have a flag hanging in a predominant place and recite the pledge daily. We have discussed the importance of being respectful when reciting the pledge and when the Star Spangled Banner is sung at various events.

In addition to this, we celebrate all national holidays in a variety of ways. The ways include, but are not limited to, completing Scholastic News articles and activities, crafts, and supplemented readings. We also complete readings in our Reading series that discuss some of the national holidays. Finally, we attend any programs that our school puts on to honor certain holidays.

**Karen Olson:** (1<sup>st</sup> Grade)

I have the American flag displayed in my classroom and we participate in the Pledge of Allegiance every school morning.

We attend the annual Veteran's Day program and discuss the different branches of the Armed Forces prior to the program.

We complete Scholastic News and Time for Kids that cover the holidays such as Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day, and Memorial Day. We also do other activities, I read non-fiction books to the class about most of the stated holidays and discuss why we honor these days.

Our reading curriculum includes a few non-fiction stories that support some of the holidays.

## American Civics Comments

### May - 2022

**Ashley Hays:** (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

We have the flag displayed in the classroom and we participate in the pledge every morning. We attend the Veterans Day program each year and second grade students lead the pledge for the school. We complete Scholastic News that cover the holidays such as Veterans Days, Thanksgiving, Columbus Day, and Martin Luther King Jr. We do different activities and watch videos over these holidays too that also include, Memorial Day and Presidents Day. Our reading curriculum includes some non-fiction stories that covers different cultures.

**Mary Jo Radil:** (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

I have the flag displayed in the classroom and we participate in the pledge every morning.

We attend the Veterans Day program each year and second grade students lead the pledge for the school.

We complete Scholastic News that cover the holidays such as Veterans Days, Thanksgiving, Columbus Day, and Martin Luther King Jr. We do different activities and watch videos over these holidays too that also include, Memorial Day and Presidents Day.

Our reading curriculum includes some non-fiction stories that covers different cultures.

**Katrina Blank:** (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)

Government: We learn about the different branches, what each branch does, and the differences between state, local, and national governments.

Veteran's Day: We discuss the different branches of the military and what each of them means and how they protect us.

For Thanksgiving: we do a small unit covering the first Thanksgivings, Plymouth colony, Wampanoag Tribe, Samoset, and Squanto, and when Thanksgiving became a holiday.

For 911: We discuss the bombing that happened and the lives that were lost. We watched a video over 911, it was more of a cartoon that explained what happened that day in a kid-friendly manner and some things that have happened since.

Black History Month: We learn about famous African Americans in our history: Jesse Owens, Ruby Bridges, Martin Luther King Jr., and Rosa Parks.

Biographies: We write biographies after researching famous Americans in our history. Those people include Thomas Edison, Sally Ride, Alexander Graham Bell, Helen Keller, Alexander Hamilton, Albert Einstein, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Walt Disney, and Anne Frank.

President's Day: We do a mini-unit and learn the history of 10 different US presidents. We compare and contrast Abraham Lincoln and George Washington.

## American Civics Comments

### May - 2022

Our Reading Curriculum includes non-fiction stories that cover different cultures. We attend the Veteran's Day Program, and we read Scholastic News Articles that cover current events and several holidays.

**Aliesha Luke:** (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)

We say the Pledge of Allegiance every morning. Government: We learn about the different branches, what each branch does, and the differences between state, local, and national governments. Veteran Day: We discuss the different branches of the military and what each of them means and how they protect us. For Thanksgiving: we do a small unit covering the first Thanksgivings. For 911: We discuss the bombing that happened and the lives that were lost. We did a project with our buddies. Black History Month: We learn about famous African Americans in our history and did biographies. Biographies: We write biographies after researching famous Presidents in our history. President's Day: We compare and contrast Abraham Lincoln and George Washington with a mini lesson and lap book. Our Reading Curriculum includes non-fiction stories that cover different cultures. We attend the Veteran's Day Program, and we read Scholastic News Articles that cover current events and several holidays.

**Annette Lowe:** (4<sup>th</sup> Grade)

We have the flag displayed in our room and participate in the flag salute each morning. We attend the Veterans Day program each year. We receive Scholastic News and Time for Kids which often correlate with the holidays of Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Columbus Day, and Martin Luther King, Jr., George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Historical figures such as these and various other are also something that I include at other times of the year, as well.

We do some local government with the City of Alma website and a Harlan County Research project. Other government things are Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens and Patriotic Symbols and Meanings, Bill of Rights and other important documents. Branches of government and their duties. During our discussions for MLK, Jr., we also cover some topics on Civil Rights. We also do some things for Native Americans and share historical books.

**ReDonna Russell:** (5<sup>th</sup> Grade)

We say the Pledge of Allegiance every morning.  
The 5th graders are learning American History all year.  
The 5th & 6th graders have a "On this date in US History" trivia question every day.  
Both 5<sup>th</sup> & 6th grades watched a movie about the Constitution for Constitution Day.  
We will discuss Thanksgiving the week of in 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades.  
We have discussed various US Holidays...Constitution Day, President's Day, MLK Jr Day, etc.  
In 6<sup>th</sup> grade we have compared and contrasted Ancient civilizations to US History.

## American Civics Comments

### May - 2022

**Ben Ellis:** (4<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Question 9: Fourth Graders have Nebraska History each day for 45 minutes. We stand, place our hands over our hearts and recite the Pledge each morning. They attend the annual Veteran's Program and have written letters to veterans this year in Skills for Growing. In Reading, we read several nonfiction selections: 4th My Brother Martin, How Ben Franklin Stole the Lightning; 5th Maya Lin, Architect of Memory (Vietnam Wall Memorial), Goin Someplace Special (Civil Rights), Sleds on Boston Common (Revolutionary War), 6th Let it Shine - Rosa Parks.

Question 12: in fourth grade, we usually do an activity with Martin Luther King's *I Have a Dream Speech*. During this time of the year, we usually do some Thanksgiving activities with our Second Grade Buddies. We also write Thanksgiving cards to our Ag. Pen Pals.

Fourth Graders have Nebraska History each day for 45 minutes. In addition to our textbook, the students read and discuss 28 Nebraska Studies Weekly newspapers throughout the year. These newspapers include local, state, and national government topics. We discuss the three branches of government and the concept of checks and balances. The leaders at each level are identified. The students also learn about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. We stand, place our hands over our hearts and recite the Pledge each morning. They attend the annual Veteran's Program. In Reading, we read several nonfiction selections that are related to important events in American history.

**Mike Ford:** (5<sup>th</sup> Grade / 4-6 Math)

The flag is displayed in the classroom and we participate in the pledge each morning.

We attend the annual Veteran's Day program.

We do a Thanksgiving activity with our buddies each year.

On Election Day we discuss items up for election, and the roles of locally elected officials.

We watch the story of Ruby Bridges in February and discuss the importance of the Civil Rights Movement. 5th Grade Social Studies curriculum is American History (45 minutes/day)

**Matthew Hageman:** (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

In the classroom I have an American flag displayed by the board in the front of the room. My class participates with the morning Pledge of Allegiance everyday. We attend the Veteran's Day program each year. During the elections we will spend sometime talking about the different candidates that are running. I also set up a presidential trivia Kahoot for the students.

**Nora Christensen:** (6<sup>th</sup> Grade / 4-6 Science)

I have the flag displayed in my classroom, and we say the pledge every day. We discuss why we say the pledge, what it means, and how we need to respect the flag.

My class attends the annual Veteran's Day Program. In the classroom, we talk about being a good citizen and about the sacrifices that have been made for our freedom.

We, also talk about current events that happen in our country and around the world.

## American Civics Comments

### May - 2022

**Jessica Howsden:** (K-2 Special Education)

I have a flag in my classroom. We say the pledge of allegiance every morning. ( I work with students to show them the importance of standing and correct hand on heart.)

Attend the Veteran's Day Celebration in our school-along with that is discussion of veterans.

Using different curriculum of reading in various classes we talk about Thanksgiving, Presidents, Martin Luther King, Landmarks-Statue of Liberty, American Eagle, Liberty Bell, and the Capitol, and Elections.

**Barb Long:** (3-6 Special Education)

I have a flag in my classroom. We say the pledge of allegiance every morning. We talk about why it is important to stand quietly and face the flag. Why it is important to show respect.

I attend the Veteran's Day Celebration with my students.

I have books on my bookshelf that the students can access on Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Martin Luther King Jr. and other Historical figures.

We talk about the responsibility that we all have to be good citizens and to stick up for their rights and the rights of others.

**Jenni Guthrie:** The flag is displayed and the pledge is recited. I have thematic units including most National holidays. We teach good citizenship and briefly discuss laws/regulations of local, state, and national enforcement.

**Michelle Fritz:** (Elementary Music)

We do a week-long unit on the Star Spangled Banner (history, words, composer, Fort McHenry, etc.) in 3rd grade, and patriotic music is used randomly throughout the year in all grade levels.

The 4th graders also do a week-long unit on John Philip Sousa who wrote America marches, so some time is spent on his history as the marine band conductor and military marches.

**Kim Ritter:** (Elementary/Secondary Art)

In the art room 1-6 grades spend October creating decorations for Veteran's Day. The students learn who the Veterans are. We discuss the various wars the US has fought and find the areas on a globe for a better understanding of deployment. We also learn about the different military branches and their functions. Also, the students understand that a Veteran can serve in times of war or peace and may be deployed or serve stateside.

In grades 9-12 we study the work of Norman Rockwell. We cover his Four Freedoms series. The Four Freedoms: *Freedom from want, Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Worship and Freedom from Fear*. The *Freedom from Want* and *Freedom of Worship* pieces allow for discussion about Thanksgiving. The piece *Freedom from Fear* allows for discussion of WW I & WW II.

## American Civics Comments May - 2022

**Dale Ritter:** (5-12 Band/Choir)

In regards to part of your in having an activity for Veterans Day- we usually recognize veterans and/or sing patriotic numbers at the fall vocal concert and sometimes in the spring concert.

I regularly have patriotic music in both band and choir.

**Isaac Frecks:** (7-12 Business)

We cover all of number 11 in our Business Law class. We usually go over this in the first quarter. If you need, I can get you a copy of the book and the chapters that cover it.

**Alex Schoneman** (7-11 Social Studies)

In class we do the pledge of allegiance every day. In class we talk about American history every day. In my junior class we just got done talking about the constitution and how it was used to fix the articles of confederation. We participated in Veterans Day, we have done reviews of our constitutional amendments on constitution day. In my 7th grade class we just got done talking about the American revolution and why we fought the revolution. We will be partaking in all of the national holidays that deal with history. They are marked down on my calendar and will have activities to discuss those important days. We have talked about how hard it is to become a naturalized citizen in this country and have taken parts of the naturalization test. We obviously study American History as juniors. In many of the classes we watch cnn 10 to see what's going on around the US. We observe the different holidays of presidents and significant historical figures. And we take a look at the civics test those that want to become citizens.

**Chris Mahalek:** (8-12 Social Studies)

We currently use approved textbooks and take part in all Patriotic Exercises. The things that you might not have written down are Clean-Up Day, taking the students down to the prison, and county government day. I also try and pull in as many Nebraska historical figures as possible. The required Citizenship test is given to every 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 12<sup>th</sup> grade student

**Amanda Pfeil:** (7 -12 Math)

We do the pledge and veterans assembly. As for class, we I usually have a bellwork question about Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, and other holiday's. We talk about 9-11 around that time and national debt and budget items in a lesson, otherwise primarily math topics.

**Tyrell Howsden:** (7-9 Science)

My science class has an American flag. We start every morning with the pledge of allegiance. We attended the Veteran's Day ceremony. I also try to emphasize the importance of scientific literacy and being an informed voter as being important duties of every American citizen.

## American Civics Comments

### May - 2022

**Laurie Kermmoade:** (10-12 Science)

In science class we have a flag in the room and we all participate in Veterans Day program. I usually talk about what Thanksgiving means and why we have that holiday. As for class, I use bell-work and homework questions about Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, and other holiday's as those holidays arise. We also talk about 9-11 around that time and what that means to our country.

**Brendan Johnsen:** (8-11 Math)

"There is an American flag displayed in my classroom and we participate in the pledge of allegiance every day. We also participate in the annual Veteran's Day program here at the school. We have conversations about the current events that are happening around the country and the world."

**Courtney Stottler:** (7-9 English)

Beyond the usual (flag hanging, pledge, etc.) we don't do/use many of the concepts listed on the sheet. My scholastic magazines don't normally contain historical texts. We do, however, talk about MLK Jr. during our poetry unit as well as some things that happened in history (The Great Depression, Migrant Workers) during certain novel units. I haven't really "planned" a unit to fall on a specific holiday for discussion and it normally just classroom discussion with visuals. We have talked about how history impacts poetry and how it is representative of the past.

**Jodie Schuller:** (Elementary/Secondary PE)

What I've always done in the past in Physical Education and will continue to do is at the beginning of class, talk about what holiday it is and explain it's meaning, whether it's Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, etc. The American Flag is also displayed in the gym, the students say the pledge in the gym. In the past, I have also celebrated February as Black History Month

**Michael Bell:** (Foreign Language – Spanish/French)

Integral to the teaching of a foreign language like Spanish is acquainting students with cultures that speak that language. Twenty-one countries of the world declare Spanish as their official language, but in addition, many countries like the USA (with over forty million native speakers of Spanish) have ample representation. I believe that learning about these other cultures allows my students to have a broader context for appreciating and strengthening their own culture even as it equips them to be better global citizens. Naturally, I have the American flag displayed in my classroom and I and my students participate in the Pledge of Allegiance every day.

**Mary Schluntz:** (7-12 FCS/Library)

We have a flag in both the Home Ec. room and in the Library. We participate in the Pledge of Allegiance. In the library we have an extensive collection of non-fiction books covering American History with a focus on Settling the West, and the wars America has been involved in. We also have books whose subjects include: Veterans, The Twin Towers, and The Wall Memorial. The National Honor Society helps with the Veterans Day Program.

## American Civics Comments

### May - 2022

**Mike Brummer:** (K-12 PE)

We do the pledge each day (flags are in both gyms and the commons area) and attend Veteran's Day.

**Marty Wolfe:** (Title Math K-6)

I have the American flag displayed prominently in my classroom and I say the pledge every morning. I attend the Veteran's Day Program put on by the National Honor Society each year.

**Margaret Ehrke:** (Title I Reading)

We have our flag displayed in the classroom. We say the pledge everyday. We discuss the meanings of the words we say and what the symbols and colors on the flag represent.

Our 4th, 5th and 6th graders read and discuss leveled readers entitled "Symbols of America", "The Shot Heard Around the World", "Ellis Island", "Fighting for Rights" and many others. We also read books about great Americans and the amazing contributions that they have made to our country. During our discussions we learn how America grew. We also learn how our government is designed and the protections for freedom woven within. I updated what I am doing in my classroom to teach to love and appreciate the wonderful country they live in.

**Dawn Schemper:** (Technology Coordinator)

We stream events or Veterans Day and take pictures at several of the holiday celebrations. That's all I got.

**Julie Dietz:** (10-12 English)

We say the pledge every morning as well as participate in the Veteran's day activities. We also discuss political, patriotic and significant events in the novels we read in class. For example, in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, we discuss the court system and how it is the one branch of government where all Americans are truly equal. Other novels discuss other issues, such as democracy, and civil rights discussions.

**Jesus Felix:** (7-12 Special Education)

I have the American flag displayed in my classroom and we participate in the Pledge of Allegiance every day. A modified 7th grade Social Studies curriculum paralleled with the regular education classroom/curriculum.

Government Vocabulary: The goal of this unit is to introduce the basic concepts of civic government through an exploration of major buildings, symbols, concepts, and people. The government vocabulary includes: Capitol Building, White House, American Flag, President Biden, vote, and Washington, D.C. Vocabulary is taught through multiple examples and focuses on identification of the images of these words as well as works on the written name of these items.

## American Civics Comments

### May - 2022

**Basic Government:** The goal of this unit is to master the basic concepts of the role of the government and the role of citizens. Students will expand basic knowledge related to civics and political institutions by identification of governmental responsibilities and the rights of a citizen. This unit also teaches the identification of the current president and vice president of the USA.

**Community Helpers:** The goal of this unit is to master identification of community helpers. This topic helps expand knowledge and understanding of the roles and responsibilities of individuals within our community and introduces the foundations of economics. The community helper vocabulary includes: police officer, doctor, chef, dentist, teacher, fire fighter, construction worker, and farmer. This unit teaches identification of these roles as well as associated items for each career.

**Holidays:** The goal of this unit is to master identification of basic US holidays. This unit focuses on exploring the role of groups within culture and society. This unit teaches the vocabulary: New Year's Day, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, & Christmas through multiple examples and focuses on identification of the images of these words as well as works on the written name of these items. This unit also teaches associated items for each holiday and teaches sorting among holidays.