

## ECA Government Parent Night

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### Overview

This course in political science and civics prepares students for their role in a democratic society by teaching them how to think critically and how to effectively participate in deliberative and policymaking contexts. Students will develop skills for civic engagement by addressing public problems individually and collaboratively.

### Frequently Asked Questions

1. How often will my student have homework?

Students have daily homework in Government. Students are expected to spend 30-60 minutes on government homework & studying each day.

2. What should my student do if s/he is struggling in government?

See me in office hours to work on a plan for success.

Use study strategies suggested in class: Make vocab flash cards, listen/read/watch news daily, complete end of chapter quizzes from textbook, implement good reading and note taking habits and strategies, use youtube videos/podcasts/ outside resources to make sense of difficult topics.

My course is rigorous and I have high expectations. However, all students are capable of doing well in my class.

3. When are your office hours?

I have walk in office hours after school on Monday-Thursday. I am also available by appointment.

4. How can I contact you if I have a question?

Email is the best way to reach me: [Burki@earlycollegealliance.info](mailto:Burki@earlycollegealliance.info)

5. What are soft skills credentials?

<b>R</b> – College Ready	Soft skills and academic performance demonstrate college readiness
<b>S</b> – Satisfactory	Soft skills and academic performance are on the right track but could use some minor improvements
<b>N</b> – Needs improvement	Generally progressing academically and making an effort in soft skills but needs quite a bit more work
<b>U</b> – Unsatisfactory	Struggling academically and making little or no effort to improve or address weak areas

6. What do students need to do to earn a soft skills credential?

- Student is engaged in class activities.
- Student completes all assigned homework on time.
- Student uses class activities as an opportunity to ask questions and further understanding.
- Student demonstrates critical thinking in debates, discussions, and written responses.
- Student keeps phone on silent and uses time *between* classes to check and/or respond to messages and texts.
- Student completes homework and studies each night.
- Student improves study techniques and there is evidence of improvement in quiz and test scores.
- Student maintains an organized binder and composition notebook.
- Student views learning as a cumulative process, and studies concepts not yet mastered.
- Student brings all of his or her materials to class, office hours, and tutoring.
- Student constructively asks questions to facilitate his or her own understanding. When student asks questions, he or she explains how notes and materials have been utilized in his/her attempts to understand the topic.
- Student uses notes and associated materials as a guide when completing homework and studying.
- Student reviews notes and associated materials when studying for tests.
- Student positively contributes to discussions in accordance with appropriate protocols.
- Student listens to peers and allows them to fully develop ideas during discussions and work-time.
- Student actively participates in class activities and chooses to use class time efficiently.
- Student chooses partners and/or tablemates with whom he or she can work effectively, and student removes himself or herself from situations when that is not the case.
- Student attends scheduled meetings with the instructor or, if necessary, contacts the instructor before the meeting to reschedule.
- Student seeks additional help outside of class until demonstrating mastery of all topics.
- Student performs well on pop quizzes.

**Parent Support Checklist**

- Encourage a growth mindset.
- Ask student to tell you about what s/he is reading for homework and discussing in class.
- Ask student to explain concepts in her/his own words
- Quiz student on vocab note cards
- Check planner for homework & test dates
- Check Power School (grades updated about every two weeks, comments updated about every 5 weeks).
- Quiz & test corrections should be completed by student, and if scores are below 85%, student should be going to office hours for help. Corrections will not earn points, but will help in mastery for future assessments.