

*All 8th graders expected to participate in at least 2 of the 4 Activities*

*Sign-up sheets and elections held around Election Day (tied into common core state standard and then reviewed when covered in the textbook)*

**Marking Periods One and Two:  
Board of Education Meeting**

**CCSS: 6.1.8.A.3.f[M], 6.3.8.A.1 [M], 6.3.8.A.2 [M]**

**Explain how political parties were formed and continue to be shaped by differing perspectives regarding the role and power of federal government.**

**Deliberate on a public issue affecting an upcoming election, consider opposing arguments, and develop a reasoned conclusion.**

**Participate in a real or simulated hearing to develop a legislative proposal that addresses a public issue, and share it with an appropriate legislative body (e.g., school board, municipal or county government, state legislature).**

*For Honors Students:*

- !• Honors LA and Math students actively participate on committees (the students will be working on compacting within the classroom to complete this project)
- !• Honors Math and LA Students will select a topic of choice as a committee at an after school meeting (will remind students that last years proposal came into effect, and that this is a real BOE meeting)
- !• Proposal explored by each committee, and presented by committee chair (see attached copy of individual slide show presentation for reference)
- !• The committees are as follows:
  - > Curriculum and Instruction
  - > Strategic Planning
  - > Finance and Facilities
  - > Negotiations (teacher relations)
  - > Policy
  - > Bi-District (high school)
  - > Technology
  - > Grants
  - > Public Relations
  - > Superintendent
  - > First Board meeting in November is used for students to meet with BOE committee chairs to get their perspective on the proposal (ask questions and get information about the presentation). Students will show the committee members their projects completed by that point. Committee members and students will collaboratively work together to go over information and or explain topics students may need guidance on

### Marking Period Three:

#### Firehouse visit (MP 3: Feb)

##### 6.3.8.B.1 [M]

**Evaluate alternative land use proposals and make recommendations to the appropriate governmental agency regarding the best course of action (In relation to the new firehouse building relocation).**

Approximately 1 hour visit

- *Students who do not participate in the Mock Trial, BOE Presentations, or Borough Council meetings select whether or not to participate in the firehouse visit or the Mock Trial (will talk to Fire Chief to see if there is more room available this year since the space is bigger-want the opportunity for the firehouse visit to first go to the students who do not have the opportunity to participate in the above activities).*
- If many students want to attend, teacher will create an essay where students must explain why they should attend the firehouse visit over the Mock Trial
- Fire Chief explains the protocol of how to become a firefighter
- History of Milltown and fires, and location of firehouse
- **This year, the students will be able to visit the new fire house in town (I believe, will revisit this with fire chief)**
- Tour of firehouse and trucks
- Dress up as firefighter
- Explains the different levels of firefighters positions and responsibilities
- Meet and greet with current, active fire fighters
- Protocols for overnight stays and emergencies
- The students will discuss their experiences with the class the next day

### **Police Visit (MP 3: March)**

**CCSS: 6.3.8.D.1[M], 6.1.8.A.3.b [M], 6.1.8.A.3.g [M], 6.3.8.A.1 [M]**

**Engage in simulated democratic processes (e.g., legislative hearings, judicial proceedings, elections) to understand how conflicting points of view are addressed in a democratic society**

**Evaluate the effectiveness of the fundamental principles of the Constitution (i.e., consent of the governed, rule of law, federalism, limited government, separation of powers, checks and balances, and individual rights) in establishing a federal government that allows for growth and change over time.**

**Evaluate the impact of the Constitution and Bill of Rights on current day issues.**

**Deliberate on a public issue affecting an upcoming election, consider opposing arguments, and develop a reasoned conclusion.**

Police Officer Visit. All eighth grade students can participate in this activity. Students will interact with representatives from the Milltown Police Department to reinforce concepts, terms, and ideas discussed in class relating to the curriculum. Some of the items are, but are not limited to:

Set up in JK Gym

- Due Process
- Rights of the Accused
- Probable Cause
- Search Warrant
- Indictment
- Protection from Self-Incrimination
- Bail

## **Town Council (MP 4: May)**

**6.3.8.A.2 [M], 6.3.8.C.1 [M], 6.3.8.A.1 [M]**

**Participate in a real or simulated hearing to develop a legislative proposal that addresses a public issue, and share it with an appropriate legislative body (e.g., school board, municipal or county government, state legislature).**

**Examine the perspectives of multiple stakeholders involved in the local budget process (e.g., obtaining information, discussing priorities).**

**Deliberate on a public issue affecting an upcoming election, consider opposing arguments, and develop a reasoned conclusion.**

Town Council meeting. All eighth grade students can apply for a position to run for town council. The students will research a topic that will be their platform. The students will construct an essay for the teacher to read on their platform. All students who receive a 14 points or higher on the rubric will have their names appear on a ballot. The entire eighth grade class will vote for their peers to be elected to a town council position they have elected to run for. The students are able to select and choose the town council position that they would like to run for. After students have been elected, they will practice at the town council, and then present at a real council meeting. The town council activities will take place at Milltown Borough Hall.

Observe town council meeting in April

- 11 students participate as members of the Borough Council and Administration
- Students will be elected by their peers to hold this position
- Students will elect peers around or on Election Day (directly correlating with what is being taught at this time)
- Students will discuss the difference of Electoral College and Popular Votes
- Priscilla Seesman will reinforce this topic with a cross curricular project in math
- Students will be driven to Boro Hall and the tour is facilitated by the Borough Clerk
- The Boro Clerk prepares scripts for the students and goes through them on the day of the visit
- Students go to lunch with the Boro Administration and available Council members
- Students then return that evening to run the meeting on behalf of their adult counterpart

Administration

1. Borough Clerk
2. Borough Attorney
3. Borough Engineer
4. Chief Financial Officer

Council

5. Mayor
6. Public Safety
7. Public Works & Recycling
8. Utilities
9. Parks & Recreation
10. Finance, Planning & Administration
11. Environment, Health & Social Services

Students who have not participated in two of the four activities by this point, must attend this meeting to receive credit