



Chelmsford High School

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Dear Community Members,

Students in grades 8 and 11 will be participating in an Action Civics Project throughout the months of May and June. 11th grade students in our Modern United States History course will learn about public policy, the research process, and how to take informed and effective action in their community throughout the school year. 8th grade students will spend the 4th quarter focused on similar elements while conducting research for their version of the project. This process ensures that we are embedding not only the study of civics but also the opportunity to engage in our community in a variety of ways.

Our process is modeled off of the national *Project Citizen* program created by the *Center for Civic Education*. Students will work on a focus problem to:

Task 1 - Conduct research to be able to thoroughly explain a public policy issue

Task 2 - Identify several solutions to the issue and weigh the advantages/disadvantages of each

Task 3 - Propose a public policy solution to the problem that requires action and does not violate provisions of state/federal constitutions

Task 4 - Propose an action plan that can be used to encourage appropriate community and/or government agencies to adopt public policy

Some of the work will be done individually, in small groups and as a whole class. From their involvement in this process students will learn more about how our community, state and federal governments work. They will learn to be critical readers and consumers of news and media, and hone their research, collaboration, and communication skills. Student products will be posted on our district website in June. This site can serve as a resource for information, innovation, and collaboration with the school community.

As part of the project, students may need to connect with decision makers and community members. If you work in our town government or with a local community organization or business you may receive communications from students in the coming weeks and months. We wanted to let you know in advance as we would very much appreciate any time and support you might be able to provide. For more information about the Civics project process, please feel free to review our [district website](#). Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me directly.

Kind Regards,

Stephanie Quinn M.A.T., C.A.G.S

K-12 Social Science Department Coordinator