

**2023-2024 School Year**



The Georgia Department of Education offers a Civic Engagement Seal that is affixed to graduating seniors’ diplomas for their Social Studies coursework, knowledge of American Government, community service, and civic engagement activities. It resembles the image above. Multiple Harrison students receive this award each year and we want to continue to grow and develop civic-minded graduates.

Below is a summary of the requirements to earn the seal. The seal application and rubric for the Capstone presentation can also be found on the Harrison Social Studies website. 9th-12th graders can work on numbers 3-4 at any time in high school. You apply senior year. **Current seniors need to apply to Mr. Thompson by March 1st, 2024, at the latest and can express their interest any time before that.** You can come by room 206 to apply or e-mail Mr. Thompson at the address below.

1. Pass your required Social Studies classes to graduate: World History, US History, and Government/Economics.
2. Pass the Government Basic Skills Test senior year. We’ll be giving this to our 12th grade Government classes and Mr. Thompson can give it to any senior who still needs to take it.
3. Application of Social Studies Knowledge--2 parts. (Enlisting in the US Military prior to graduation satisfies the requirements for parts A and B below.)
   1. A: Accumulate 35 hours combined of community service, certain extracurricular activities with service hours, and certain approved Social Studies electives. You can use up to 3 social studies elective classes for 10 hours each as part of the 35 hours. See the application for more details.
   2. B: Accumulate 15 hours of civic engagement activities: attending local government meetings, school board meetings, working the polls on election day, etc. Participation in extracurricular activities such as Mock Trial, Model UN, Debate, Rho Khappa National Social Studies Honors Society, etc., counts. See the application for more details.
4. Present a Capstone Presentation on what you’ve learned about civic engagement through your coursework and community service. Refer to the presentation rubric on the Social Studies website.

Contact Mr. Thompson at [Robert.Thompson@cobbk12.org](mailto:Robert.Thompson@cobbk12.org) to express your interest of if you have any questions. You can also drop by room 206 during the school year for questions and to express interest in the program.