

Civics 603: At the Schoolhouse Door



Civics 603 invites New Hampshire middle and high school groups to participate in an exciting new program designed to supplement the students' knowledge of the Bill of Rights, the three branches of government, and civil discourse.

The program utilizes two landmark U.S. Supreme Court cases involving important issues that touch on the students' daily lives:

- ◇ *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District*, in which the Supreme Court held that students do not lose their First Amendment right to freedom of speech when they step onto school property and established some standards for regulating speech in public schools; and
- ◇ *New Jersey v. T.L.O.*, in which the Supreme Court held that the Fourth Amendment's prohibition against unreasonable searches and seizures applies to public school officials and established the basic test for evaluating the propriety of school-based searches and seizures.

Students will travel to the New Hampshire Supreme Court, meet with court officials, learn about one of the cases, and develop and present mock appellate arguments before lawyers acting as judges. The in-court program takes about 120 minutes. Two extremely successful "pilot" programs were conducted in April 2018, and students were able to meet with, and ask questions of, the Chief Justice of the New Hampshire Supreme Court.

At the option of the teacher, a lawyer will travel to the school in advance of argument day to give the students a one-hour primer on the case and the Bill of Rights, and further prepare them for the upcoming argument.

This program is free to participating schools and support for transportation costs may be available to qualifying schools.

Contact Martha Madsen at
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to learn more and register your class
for Civics 603.

