About Legislature in the Classroom

Inside this brochure you will find a description and several options which can be easily adapted to fit your classroom curriculum.

The Majority Caucus in the Monroe County Legislature firmly believes that **building ties and connections with youth** in our community is necessary for a healthy civic society. This exercise attempts to make government fun for students in an active learning environment.

This brochure begins with a description of three options we have created for this program. Legislators and staff are more than happy to work with individual teachers to adapt the program to meet the needs of your students. Inside this brochure is an in-depth description of what each option entails. Supplemental Information, specifically pertaining to the Mock Legislature option, is available upon inquiry at 753-1922 or monroe12@monroecounty.gov

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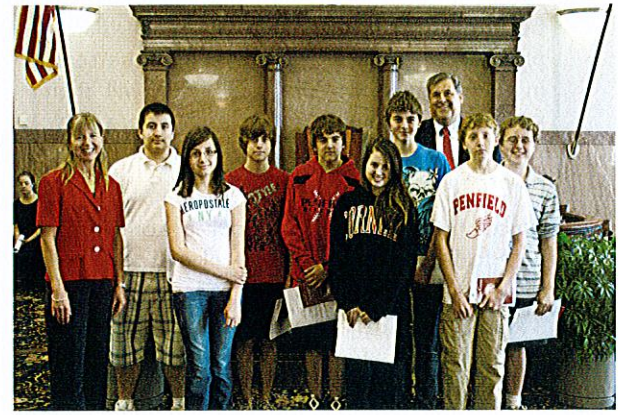
LEGISLATURE IN THE CLASSROOM



Sponsored by the Monroe County Legislature's Majority Office

39 West Main Street, Suite 409
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Tour of the Chambers

This option includes a tour of the Legislative Chambers in the County Office Building, 39 West Main Street Rochester, NY, fourth floor, and is accompanied by a short legislative exercise.

During this exercise different areas of the Chambers will be explained:

- The President's Podium
- The Clerk's area
- Each side of the Legislature
- The Administration Table
- The Gallery and Media area

After a basic overview, the students will be given a brief summary of the Legislative procedures and the students will fill the seats in the Chambers. The tour guide will then provide an issue and assign each side a view on the issue. Each side will present their points and ask questions.

Once this portion of the tour is complete a roll call vote will take place and the prevailing side will be announced.

This option would be ideal for all age ranges including Elementary, Middle and High School and could accommodate up to 50 students.

****This may fit into part of the state/local government curriculum for 5th grade.****

President Adair discusses the issues being debated by the students of Bay Trail Middle School

Legislators in the Classroom

This option is similar to the Tour of the Chambers, but Legislators visit the classroom and discuss the legislative process and lead students through a discussion and debate exercise. This option provides a guarantee of Legislator/Student interaction.

Legislators in the classroom provides greater flexibility in scheduling for the teacher and students.

During President Adair's "Legislature in the Classroom" session at Wheatland Chili High School he was able to educate high school seniors on the importance of voting and the impact it has on their future.

Each of our Legislators come from diverse backgrounds and work in various professions. They will be able to provide students with a unique perspective of Monroe County Government.

***This option would be ideal for all age ranges including Elementary, Middle and High School**

President Adair leads a "Legislator in the Classroom" session for a Participation in Government class at Wheatland Chili High School

Mock Legislature

This option includes a member of the Monroe County Legislature staff and/or Monroe County Youth Bureau working with the teacher to develop an exercise packet of information on how a Legislature meeting is run. After the class has mastered the proceedings of the Legislature, they will come into the Chambers, meet their County Legislator (if available) and proceed to hold a mock legislature meeting led by the County Legislator and Support Staff.

3 Phases of Mock Legislature

I. Introductory
- a. Rules and Procedure
- b. Roles of Members
- c. Duties
- d. Leadership

II. Referral Drafting
- a. Creation
- b. Requirements
- c. Amendment Process

III. Debates
- a. Roberts Rules
- b. Strategy

IV. Vote

This option makes government fun and accessible to students in Monroe County. If available, the Monroe County Legislator will play an active role in encouraging debate and answering questions along the way. The students will gain unique insights into the legislature process that are sure to stay with them throughout their education.

Ideal for High School Students and could accommodate a minimum of 12 students and a maximum of 35.