

Students *Can* Make



Democracy Work!

**WEST CHICAGO
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL
MARY ELLEN DANEELS**

CHS Legislative Semester

- fulfills Illinois School Code requirements
- qualifies as “Democracy School”
- taught in heterogeneous classes
- inclusive of special education students and bilingual students with support
- all seniors participate
- integrates technology through the use of threaded discussion boards, web pages, Microsoft Power Point, Microsoft Publisher, Microsoft Word, and research
- culminating experience for Social Studies Department
- teacher as facilitator
- **Student directed inquiry**

Focus Questions

- What is the role of the government in a democratic republic?
- What are the rights of individuals in a democratic republic?
- How is conflict addressed in a democratic republic?
- How is power distributed in a democratic republic?
- What is an effective citizen?

Why are these students lined up at
6:00 ○ a.m.?



Rules Committee



D-Day



- Students form issue groups of 3-5 students
- Each issue group has a distinct bill for the simulation
- 8 classes x 7 issues a class=56 issues
- “First come, first served” to claim issues
- Rules Committee oversees process
- First to go this semester: Abortion, End Affirmative Action, Doctor-Assisted Suicide



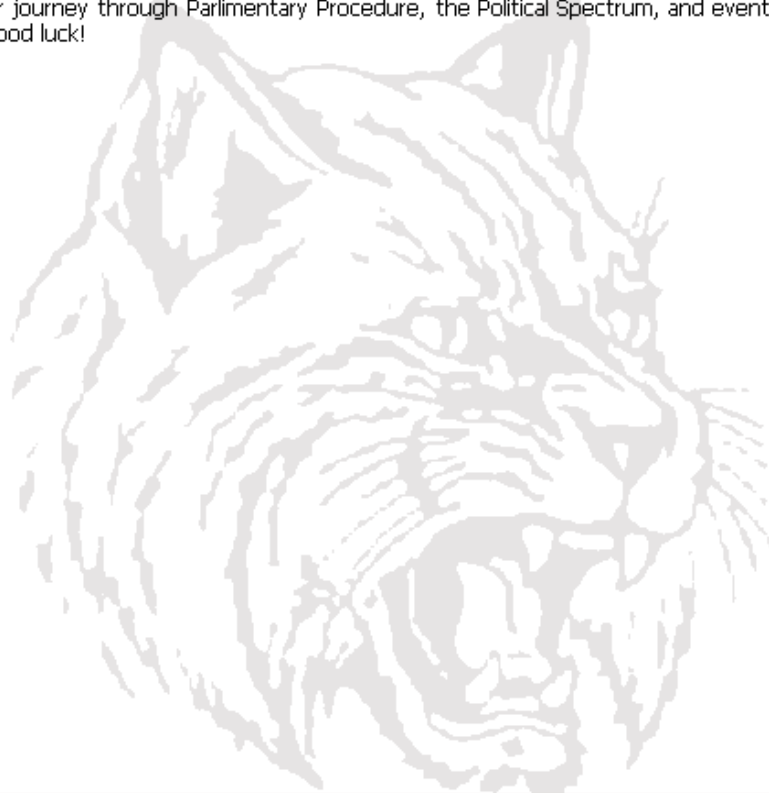
West Chicago Community High School's American Government Legislative Semester

Welcome to the Legislative Semester

Welcome to the American Government Legislative Semester. This is your one stop resource for the 26th Semester here at West Chicago. Use the menu links on your left to guide you as you begin your journey through Parliamentary Procedure, the Political Spectrum, and eventually the full session. Good luck!

- Welcome
- Blackboard.com
- Issues Links
- Student Handbook
- Bill Texts
- Position Papers
- Committees
- Useful Links
- Bill Status
- Congress and the Courts
- House Rules
- Photos
- Sheltered Government
- Political Spectrum
- Past Sessions
- History
- Election 2004
- Sample Profiles

Invision Board
Online Gradebook
Blackboard



Steps to Bill Writing



- Issue Groups brainstorm central questions
- Individuals complete research
- Individuals complete outline
- Groups come together to create common position paper
- Groups come together to write bill
- Groups work together to advocate for issue for simulation

“Democracy Schools”



- Formal Instruction in U.S. government, history, law and democracy using interactive methods and opportunities to apply learning to “real life” situations
- Discussion of current events that students view as important to their lives; discussion puts formal civic instruction in context of current political issues
- Service Learning: research, advocacy, direct action, indirect action
- Student Voice in school governance
- Participation in simulations of democratic processes

Student Directed Service Learning



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

~**Margaret Mead ...**



The Spiraling Curriculum



- **Freshmen Year: Geography**
 - *What role do I play in the global community?*
- **Sophomore Year: World History**
 - *How does modern history affect the world?*
- **Junior Year: United States History**
 - *What does it mean to be an American?*
- **Senior Year: United States Government**
 - *What does it mean to be an effective citizen?*
- **Elective: Community Leadership**
 - *What does it mean to be an effective citizen in the global community?*

Community Leadership



Objectives:

- Apply academic, social, and personal skills to improve the community.
- Make decisions that have REAL results.
- Build leadership skills and increase civic participation.
- Make a difference locally and globally.
 - Students are released from class twice a week to go to service sites
 - During the semester, students are expected to do 60 hours of service learning

Individual Service Learning Sites



- Local P.A.D.S. shelters
- Animal Shelter
- After-school programs
- ESL classes
- DuPage Convalescent Center
- Wood Glen Nursing Home
- St. Patrick's Nursing Home
- State Representative's offices
- Relay for Life Planning Committee

- Veteran Relief Services
- World Relief
- Feed My Starving Children
- Recycling
- WeGo Care Packs for troops
- Spooky Trail
- Community Leaf Raking
- 4Paws 4 You 4 Ever
- Much more...

Students in the class:



- Meet at least three times a week
- Read The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership by John C. Maxwell or Seven Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen Covey
- Complete projects as a class and individual work
- Interact with guest speakers that discuss their leadership role in the community and serve as mentors

Community Leadership Class Projects

- School-wide recycling
- Raise money for local PADS shelter
- Freshmen Activity Project
- West Chicago Historical Society Immigrant Project
- Care Packs for the Troops
- WeGo 2 Africa Project to help country rebuild after 20+ years of civil war



WeGo to Africa!



WeGo 2 Africa Mission Statement



**WeGo 2 Africa is
helping rebuild
communities in
Angola with
educational resources
to facilitate learning,
living and leadership.**



WeGo 2 Africa History



- In 2005, CHS raised over \$12,000 to build a school in Sakutopi, Angola
- In 2006, the International Club, Key Club and Mrs. Haas' Geography classes collected school supplies to send to Angola.



WeGo 2 Africa History

- In 2007, CHS raised over \$15,000 to send a shipping container full of supplies to Angola. Including computers from the One Laptop Program.



WeGo 2 Africa History



- In 2008, CHS raised \$6000 to help fund a school in Matala, Angola where 1600 kids attend school outdoors while 7800 children go without an education in that region. The donation was matched by an anonymous businessman.



WeGo 2 Africa History

- In 2009, a school is built in Caala as a result of the efforts of students and teachers at six US high schools coming together to make a difference-- Glenbrook North, Ironwood Ridge, Maine West, Prosser Career Academy, West Chicago and Wheeling!



Fundraising & Donations

- Designed and sold WeGo 2 Africa t shirts
- Soliciting corporate donations and grants
- E-News for donations
- West Chicago Park District ad
- Battle of the Bands
- Teacher Sumo Tournament
- Turnabout Dance
- “Just Kidding” teacher competition
- Lollipop sales
- Advisory Fundraisers
- Community Presentations



Empower Others to help



- **Presentations to Middle Schools**
- **Swim team hosts and annual swimathon to raise funds**
- **VFW, Rotary and local churches have donated funds**



Colin Hale



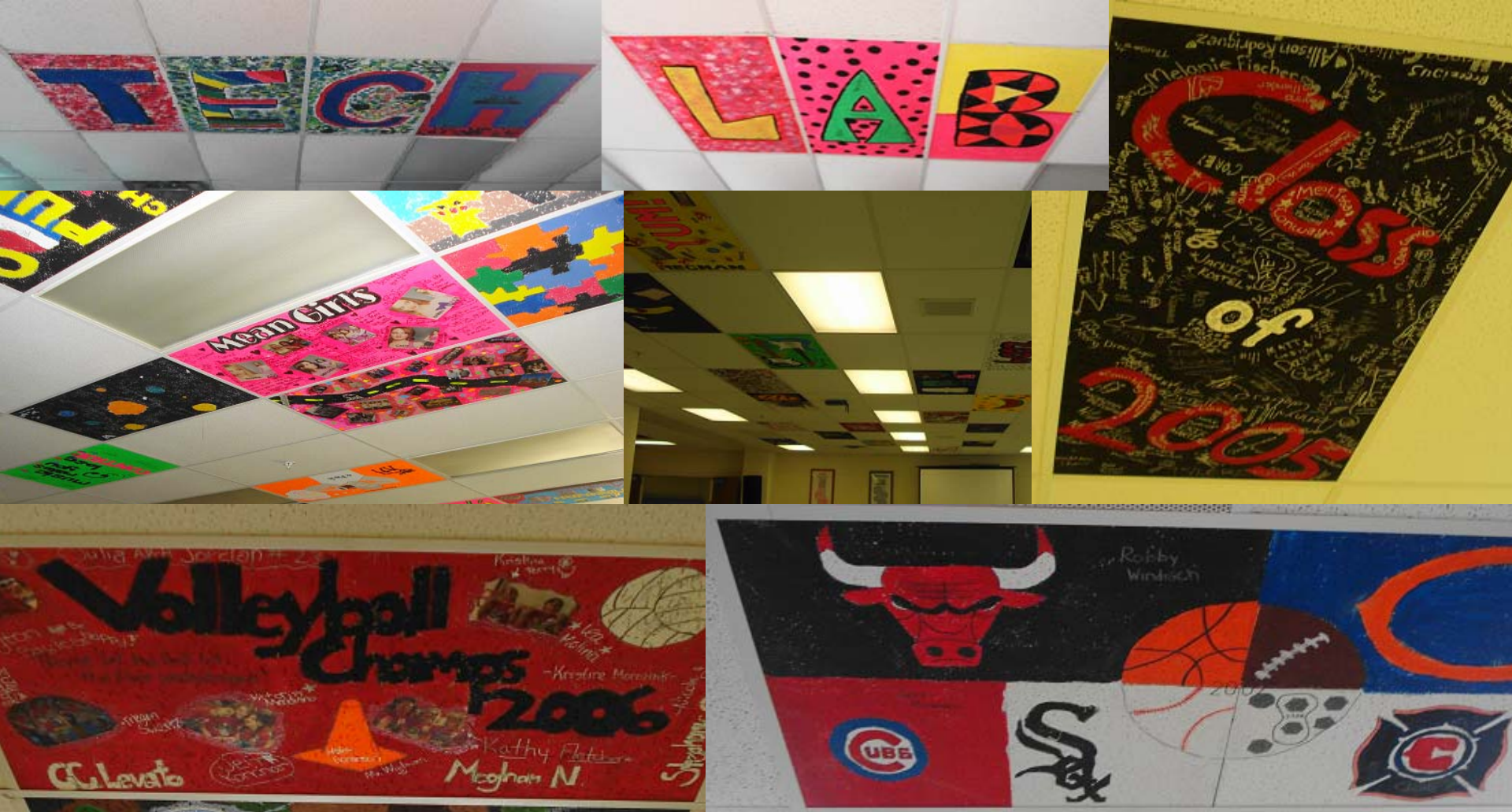
Art Club



Teacher' Association



- Teacher's Association hosted a Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast and clubs and activities sponsored crafts for kids to make for their mommies.
- Profits benefited Africa Project.



International Club: Paint a Ceiling Tile

Advisory making dolls for Angola



ABC Posters designed by Art Club



Blankets made by Advisories



Backpacks From Geography Classes



Pre-school selling lemonade for Angola



What is the benefit to CHS students?

- Organization skills
- Building “Social Capital”
- Respect for diversity
- Attitude of gratitude
- Authentic conversations and relationships built as they “work together” on a cause greater than themselves
- Looking at community needs
- Respect for CHS



What is the benefit to CHS students?

A “HABIT OF THE HEART”



“Democracy Schools”



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Places to start



- **RDA materials**

- [Project Citizen](#) from the Center for Civic Education; SL curriculum for elementary, middle school and high school
- [The World We Want](#) documentary about Project Citizen around the world
- Center on Congress at Indiana University; [The Importance of Citizen Participation](#)
- The Center for Civic Education; [Representative Democracy in America](#)→Program 6
- National Conference of State Legislatures→[America's Legislators Back to School Program](#)

Places to start



- [Faces of Freedom](#) from the McCormick Foundation
- Constitutional Rights Foundation → [Civic Action Project](#)
- [The Complete Guide to Service Learning](#) by Cathryn Berger Kaye
- Learn and Serve America → www.servicelearning.org
- Youth Leadership Initiative → [Democracy Corps](#)