

HEART Congressional Academy

Lee County

Lee County Middle School, located in Beattyville, Kentucky is a participant of the Congressional Academy through project HEART (History Education through Advanced Research Technology). Lee County had 27 student participants ranging from 6-9th grade. Students learned about America's political parties and cultural conflict.

Students covered a variety of topics during the week. They read the United States Constitution, they learned about proposed bills in Congress and Constitutional amendments. Reading the United States Constitution allowed students to learn history, while improving their reading comprehension. Students also used Chrome books to research and learn about political parties.

Local government was part of the curriculum as well. Students visited their local courthouse, met their local judge and mayor. Back in the classroom students put their knowledge into action. They held their own mock elections of judges and mayors.

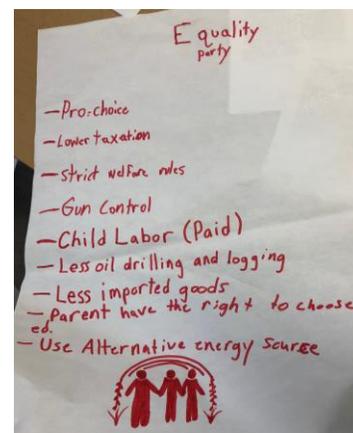
They finished the week with an activity that included a fake country and a cultural conflict to resolve. The scenario was that there was an aid team to help give relief to this country, but while there one of the workers took a few hours off to go swimming at the beach. The native people were offended that a woman would wear a bathing suit and go swimming on her own. They harassed her and threw rocks at her to stop. This scenario had a variety of issues for students to analyze. The students discussed what could have been done better to prevent such a situation and how the different cultures could have compromised on the issue. Mr. Durbin applied this cultural conflict to real life events and how it is a significant part of history.



Students from Lee County Middle School voted on how they would handle a cultural conflict.



Mr. Durbin teaching his students the importance of understanding different cultures.



Students created their own political party and listed major issues for discussion.