

USD #377 Atchison County Community Schools News Release



Effingham, KS 66023
(913) 833-5050

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

21 ACCJSHS Juniors compete at WE THE PEOPLE (*By ACCJSHS Honors Junior English Class*) - On February 28, 2011, the 21 juniors of the ACCJSHS College Prep American History class participated in the Kansas High School State Finals of the WE THE PEOPLE competition in Topeka, Kansas. The team was instructed by history teacher, Mr. Clayton Lucas, and English teacher, Mrs. Barbara Gigstad.

WE THE PEOPLE...THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION is the most extensive educational program in the country to educate young people about the history and principals of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Twelve schools from across Kansas gathered in Topeka to participate in the competition. The teams prepared for weeks by writing opening statements to questions/topics provided by the WE THE PEOPLE organization. The opening statements were 4 minutes long followed by a "cross examination" from the judges for 6 minutes which required teams to further defend their statements with case law, history, and current events. The ACCJSHS team finished 4th out of the 12 teams and won a distinguished award for their Unit Six. Finishing 1st at the competition was St. Thomas Aquinas, followed by Blue Valley and Wichita Heights. While the Atchison County team consists entirely of juniors, most teams are made up of seniors in College Government classes or WE THE PEOPLE elective classes.

The students were nervous, expecting the competition and the judges to be intimidating, but the judges' feedback was positive and helpful, and everyone learned a great deal from the experience.

After a pizza luncheon, the day concluded with an informative talk by Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach.





ACCJSHS team members:

Unit One: Jaclyn Scherer, Haley Reiff, Erik Cummings, Hannah Corpstein
Unit Two: Jacob Sowers, Zane O'Brien, Jenna Thompson, Jaclyn Scherer
Unit Three: Brooke Fowler, Austen Miller, Taylor Pieper, Margaret Delzeit
Unit Four: Anna Myers, Derek Hulett, Kelsey Weber, Nick Spilman
Unit Five: Zane O'Brien, Matt Miller, Mitchel Kurtz, Megan Vanderweide
Unit Six: Austin Eckert, Derek Hulett, Tara Ellerman, Katrina Reiss