



Leavelle McCampbell Students Compete in Mock Trial

Nine students from Leavelle McCampbell Middle School participated in the South Carolina Mock Trial competition on Saturday, November 13 in Columbia, SC. The team tried a civil case against other middle schools from the Midlands region. The students were Cassie Johnson, Kourtney King, Bayleigh Padgett, Teryl Williams, Victoria McCarthy, AJ Richard, Jordan McCarthy, Denyelle Gervilier and Rekiyah Hawkins. They were taught and coached by Ms. Gabrielle Morgan.

The Middle School Mock Trial Program is a division of The South Carolina Bar Law Related Education. The program is a hands-on exercise in learning about due process of law. It teaches the legal process and trial procedure. Students representing attorneys and witnesses for both sides of a fictional case, role play that case in court.

In addition to the educational aspects where students increased higher order thinking skills such as critical analysis and synthesizing information; the Mock Trial allowed Ms. Morgan to introduce the students to the various careers available in the justice system. "The team had the opportunity to learn first hand what it's like to be in an actual court room. We practiced at the Magistrates Court House in Graniteville so the students could get acclimatized with the court room setting. We competed at the Richland County Courthouse in Columbia, SC. They were able to see how much work, commitment, responsibility and professionalism is required when your chosen career is to be an attorney, a bailiff, or perhaps even a judge said Ms. Morgan".

Leavelle McCampbell did well at the competition. The students competed in two rounds, the plaintiff and the defense, against other schools. Two awards are given in each round, the most effective witness and the most effective attorney. We are proud to announce that we had three winners from Leavelle. In the first round Leavelle swept both awards with Jordan McCarthy being awarded most effective witness and Cassie Johnson was awarded most effective attorney. In the second round, Bayleigh Padgett was awarded most effective attorney.

The students' performance was outstanding. It was truly amazing to watch them demonstrate their knowledge of the justice system. We congratulate the team and Ms. Morgan on their successful representation of Leavelle McCampbell and Aiken County Middle Schools.