

Love the Law! Southeast Idaho Event

May 23, 2019

Event Summary

Event Title: Bingham County Courthouse Hearing Observation, and Question and Answer, and Signature Scavenger Hunt

Date & Time: [REDACTED] 9:00 a.m – 1:00 p.m. May 23, 2019

Location: 501 N. Maple, Blackfoot, Idaho 83221 (Bingham County Courthouse)

Number of Students: 17 students and 2 chaperones

Participating School: Independence Alternative High School, Blackfoot, Idaho

Summary of Events: The students arrived at the courthouse close to 9:00 a.m. I met them at the top of the stairwell and we entered Courtroom #2 to observe a civil motions hearing. After the hearing, the students received a courthouse tour. We then went to the office of Sergeant Fellows, who showed the kids some of the surveillance video feed from the jail and talked about jail intake and daily life. The students then took part in a signature scavenger hunt, in which they took a sheet of statements (such as “I issue car licenses”) to the various courthouse offices for signatures. All those who completed their forms (which was everybody) received a prize (a pencil and a small candy bar). We then had a question and answer session over pizza.

In the last few minutes, I asked the students to fill out the evaluation forms, if they were willing.

At approximately 1:00 p.m., the chaperones and students left the courthouse.

Student Profiles: 16 of the 17 students completed the LTL! evaluation form and 16 students filled out the LTL! Background Information form.

Background Information.

Of the 16 students who completed the Background Information form, 10 identified as female, 5 identified as male, and 1 identified as “other.” Two (2) of the students were 16 years of age, 10 were 17 years of age, and 4 were 18 years old. Nine (9) students were high school juniors and 7 were high school seniors. Grade point averages ranged from: below 2.00 (2); 2.00-2.49 (3); 2.50-2.99 (3); 3.00-3.49 (2); 3.50-3.74 (3); 3.75-4.00 (3).

One (1) of the students identified as disabled and one (1) student did not answer the question. Fifteen (15) students reported that English was their native language and one (1) student noted that English was not his/her first language. Nine (9) students identified as “white/Caucasian,” two (2) students identified as Spanish/Hispanic/Latino/Latina, and five (5) students identified as Native American/Alaska Native/Inuit. Students’ religious identifications included: none (7); Catholic (1); Christian (2); other (3); and Wiccan (1), with 2 students not answering the question. Ten (10) students reported they are heterosexual, two (2) students reported they are lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender; and four (4) students did not answer the question.

Political/social ideologies ranged from “liberal” (1), to “moderate” (2), to “unsure or questioning” (9), to “none of these” (3). One (1) student did not answer the question. Mother’s/female guardian’s education levels ranged from: “did not earn a high school education” (2), to “earned a high school education” (3), to “attended some college” (4), to “earned a 2-year associate’s degree” (2), to “earned a bachelor’s degree” (1), to “earned a Master’s degree” (2). Father’s/male guardian’s highest level of education ranged from: “did not earn a high school education” (3), to “earned a high school education” (5), to “attended some college” (5), to “earned a bachelor’s degree” (1). One (1) student did not answer the question; and one (1) student wrote “N/A.” One (1) student wrote that his mother/female guardian is a social worker and his father/male guardian is a retired mechanic.

On the evaluation forms, the students’ favorite activities included the signature scavenger hunt (5); the civil hearing (5); everything (2); pizza (2); learning about the jail system (1); touring the courthouse (1); “talking in the mic;” “the lawyers getting chippy;” and “acting as a judge after the trial.” Students did not like learning about the jail (1); sitting in the courtroom (7); the courtroom benches (1); and standing in Sergeant Fellows’ office (1). Some observations included “the courthouse was a bit boring;” and “the court room was tense and boring.” Several students would have liked to see a murder case instead of a civil case. Other students would have liked a tour of the jail. One student would have preferred ice cream from a local hamburger restaurant.

Background Information and event Evaluations will be submitted to the LTL! Chair for filing/reference. I will keep the originals for future reference.

Costs Associated with Event:

Pizza from Mr. Pizza:	\$ 78.15
Tip:	\$ 20.00
Plates/Candy/Cups/Pencils:	<u>\$ 17.26</u>
TOTAL:	\$123.36

A receipt for the pizza and the plates/candy/cups/pencils will be submitted to the Love the Law! Subcommittee for reimbursement.

Lauren Murdoch