

Trumbull High 'We the People' team best in state — again

Twenty-four students from the Trumbull High School Bicentennial class recently traveled to Hartford to participate in and win the "We The People: The Citizen and the Constitution" state championship.

Competing against Greenwich, St. Joseph and Southington high schools, the students evaluated and answered questions posed to them by state politicians, attorneys and teachers.

THS students, undefeated at the state level for 10 years, will travel to Washington in April to compete for the national title.

The mission of "We the People" is to promote civic competence and responsibility, as well as to enhance students' understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy. Students "testify" in a simulated congressional hearing on a state level (and possibly national) before a panel of judges as a part of the course's culminating activity.

THS' Bicentennial class, affectionately dubbed "Bicen" by the students, has been offered for almost 20 years, and has been taught by Michael Margonis for the past two years.

"The students learn invaluable life skills, such as public-speaking techniques, the ability to respond quickly and accurately to posed questions, and the importance of being able to defend their answers with confidence."

Margonis said. In order to participate in the class, students are interviewed at the end of their junior year and selected based on their interview responses and academic record.

The class is an intensive course about the United States Constitution and its implications not only on our history, but on our day-to-day practices.

"By the end of the course," Margonis said, "it is my goal that the students will develop a profound appreciation for the founding generation of our country and the impact that those individuals have had on today's government. In specific, they will see how 200-year-old concepts on topics such as presidential and war powers, civil liberties and foreign alliances impact current events today. It is my hope that the students will be excited about the Constitution and feel empowered to spread their knowledge of democratic ideals."

The 2006-07 THS state champions include: Alexa Alexander, Akanksha Baja, Rebecca Chadwick, Chelsea Clyde, Ashley Cohen, Shane Connolly, Victoria Costello, Mulan Cui, Megan Denstedt, Jackson Dolan, Adam Drenkard, Milke Finik, George Fitzpatrick, Casey Gardiner, Blake Ludwig, Alex Mosello, Elisa Odoardi, Alison Ornitz, Matt Pankracij, Mary Santella, Jaclyn Siegel, Matt Socha, Edward Tillstrand and Stephen Wagner.



Students from Trumbull High School's Bicentennial class recently won the "We The People: The Citizen and the Constitution" state championship. It is the 10th straight year Trumbull has won the competition. In April, the 24 students will travel to Washington to compete against other state teams for the national title.

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