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**Cross Curriculum Experiences**

CHS offer numerous cross curriculum activities aligned to both Illinois Learning Standards and Civic Standards. There is natural interaction with other departments. Teachers often collaborate on projects to reinforce civic responsibility and citizenship.

The English and Social Studies Departments are involved in numerous activities, which include, but not limited to, the analysis of Patrick Henry’s infamous, “Give me liberty or give me death,” speech. College Prep English places literary emphasis on a chronological survey of American literature including such genres as poetry, essays, biographies, letters, historical documents, short stories, novels and drama. Students discuss the importance of historical context to the works with close reading and analysis.

The Social Studies Department also provides the educational foundation for students to engage in activities in the Computer Technology, Marketing and Math. Students debated, analyzed candidates and ran mock elections in various Government and Civics classes. A school-wide Youth Leadership Mock Presidential Election was hosted by the first semester by the Computer Technology class. The lesson included groups of students collaborating to run a political campaign – debates, political platforms, town-hall meetings, votes predicted and analyzed. In addition, the marketing class ran a mock Governor’s political campaign the second semester. Debates used the same rubrics used in the Social Studies department for continuity.

There are many opportunities for CHS students to discuss current and controversial issues. Government students will use primary resources to debate, discuss, and explore issues surrounding court cases, laws, and policy affecting citizens. Sometimes the subject matter is difficult to discuss, such as the Westboro Baptist Church debate. Students deliberate on the negative side effects of freedom of speech and why freedom of speech is protected - even if that speech defames Jews, Catholics, Muslims and LGBT people.

Students will also discuss and have simulations on current and past court cases. Mock trials enable students to apply what they have read and studied to provide in-depth perspective on relevant issues.  One such case is Texas v Johnson. Students analyze primary documents and debate whether flag desecration is protected by the constitution. Another lesson deals with the second amendment and whether it is a collective right or an individual right to own guns.

Additionally, students have indirect opportunities for discussion as well. Students watch Channel One, which plays current events, thus generating discussions on current national and international issues. Goals learning is yet another opportunity in which teachers present SEL and other relevant issues.