

Lesson Plan for CAWS Educator Exchange Program

Subject: County Government

Objectives: To show students the importance of local government

I visited local governments in Cullman county and was able to see how they work and the importance of each department to the stability and growth of Cullman.

Felony Court with Judge Chaney- watched Judge Chaney hold court proceedings with people who have been arrested for a drug charge. It was sad to see how many people are on Meth and other drugs. I saw three former students in court.

Circuit Clerks office-I was shown around the office and although they perform many duties they told me about how they elect juries and from what pool of people they select from for trials.

Probate Judge-The Judge of Probate handles the probate of estates of those who die with a will and the administration of estates of those who die without a will.

Sheriff office/jail- I toured the jail and was impressed with how clean and how they used the labor force to save the county money.

I.T.- I was shown how the computer system was run and how they troubleshoot problems. They are on call 24/7 and a valuable part of the government process since everyone uses a computer to record and store information.

Revenue office-The Revenue office I was shown how they assess property taxes and the maps they use to determine the amount. It was a very efficient process and clean environment. They also sell tags and many other duties.

Personnel- I was shown all the things that they have to keep up with and they also do payroll and insurance since the county has its own insurance plan. They do an amazing job with only a few people to handle all the county employees.

Commission Meeting- the meeting was very informative on things that were happening in the county and things that the Commission is responsible for in the county.

County Administrator/Accounting- The accountant has to make the budget and make sure each office is staying within the budget. This is an enormous job and has a lot of things to keep up with.

Sales Tax-I was informed about where our sales tax goes and how much each town receives in funding.

Animal Control-I went on a ride along and we checked some horses that were abused. He filled me in all the things they have to check on in the county they are very under staffed.

Park and Recreation- I visited the OHV park and Smith Lake Park and was very impressed with the things that they offer the county and bring in tourist to our community.

Sanitation-I was told how many people they serve and I toured the old landfill and was shown how they reclaimed it after it was full.

Economic Development- I sat in on a meeting about things that were happening in our town. This was very informative about how we are constantly trying to recruit businesses to Cullman.

Commission on Aging- This is a wonderful place that helps our senior citizens by feeding them, having activities for them to do and helping them with legal issues that they would otherwise be unable to get without their help.

Road Engineering/Garage- I was show how they build roads and how many bridges they have to maintain on a very small budget. They have a lot of responsibilities and I was impressed on the things they are able to do with a minimal amount of money.

EMA- This was a great visit and they are very capable of handling any disaster, we hope we don't have to use them but I was impressed on how they are ready for any problems.

Community Corrections/ Juvenile Detention/Probation- I sat in on a meeting about how Juvenile and Police Department were going to handle the Rock the South crowd.

Water- I rode along and we checked water lines and was shown the tanks and pumps that keep the water flowing. They service a lot of miles of water lines in our county.

Summary-

I will be able to share with our students the importance of jobs in our county so it can run efficiently and that is run by people who have pride in their jobs.

Thank you for this wonderful opportunity,

Kevin Sullins

Vice Principal West Point High School