



News

from the MNPS Public Information Office

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools

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Thurgood Marshall Students Represent the State

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (June 9, 2009) – *Recess Reinstated*, a 5th grade class project from Thurgood Marshall Middle School, is in route to California to represent Tennessee in a national showcase of Project Citizen, a national program aimed at teaching citizens about public policy.

Recess Reinstated, a project examining the public policy surrounding physical education for students, was created by a classroom of 5th graders taught by Ms. Molly Worrall. Students gathered research about current physical education policy, analyzed data, and proposed an alternative policy. Better health became the premise of the class's alternative policy, with the focus of the project to reinstate recess for all fifth graders in the district. The class had to create four boards -- Statement of the Problem, Suggested Alternative Policies, Recommended Alternative Policy, and an Action Plan -- plus a large binder demonstrating their work throughout the several months it took to complete the project. Five students were selected to represent Worrall's class, presenting at both the local and state level.

"I'm very proud of our school and all of our students who participated at the state showcase," said Marshall Principal Dr. Barbara Ide, "as well as our teachers, who were extraordinary throughout this project."

This project was made possible by a grant from the state of Tennessee. This spring, the state offered a \$10,000 grant for each U.S. Congressional District to participate in the program; Marshall was awarded the grant for District 5. Because of the grant, every homeroom class at Marshall participated, working on a civic project throughout the spring semester. This school-wide participation culminated in a spring showcase of 32 projects. Of those, community judges selected 16 projects to compete at the state level. Three Marshall projects received a superior ranking from the state and were sent to the state capital for further consideration before a panel of civic-minded community members. It was at this level that *Recess Reinstated* was selected by the panel to represent Tennessee in the national showcase.

Project Citizen, administered by the Center for Civic Education in Washington, D.C., is a civics program designed to promote participation in local and state government, with a key focus on helping participants learn how to shape public policy. Youth and adults are encouraged to participate.

Metro Nashville Public Schools provide a range of educational opportunities to more than 75,000 students in Nashville and Davidson County. The governing body for MNPS is the Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County Board of Public Education, a nine-member group elected by residents of Metropolitan Nashville. For more information, please visit www.mnps.org.

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