



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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High school broadcast students to help provide Supreme Court webcast

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MOUNDSVILLE, W.Va. – Students in John Marshall High School’s Broadcast Technology program will provide video for the live webcast of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia’s Argument Docket on Tuesday, March 8 at the Marshall County Courthouse in Moundsville. Thanks to their efforts, the Court session will be available live on the Supreme Court website at <http://www.state.wv.us/wvsca>.

The Court will hear cases on a Rule 20 Argument Docket in Moundsville as part of the LAWS (Legal Advancement for West Virginia Students) program. Students from high schools in the Second Judicial Circuit (Marshall, Tyler, and Wetzel Counties) are invited to the courthouse to hear cases they have studied with their teachers and local lawyers. (See separate release.)

“The Court has had the opportunity to work with broadcasting programs in colleges and universities around the state as part of the LAWS program,” said Supreme Court Clerk Rory Perry II. “This is the first time a program at a high school has been able to meet our high standards. I’m very excited to be a part of this realistic educational experience for the students.”

“It will be a great learning experience for the students to be a part of,” said John Marshall broadcast teacher Tony Wood. “I try to give students as much real world experience as possible.”

Mr. Wood began working as a commercial broadcaster when he was a teenager and still fills in as a meteorologist at television stations around West Virginia. He established the broadcasting career and technical education program at John Marshall six years ago. It now offers nine different classes over a two-year program, according to the online course catalog of the 1,200-student school.

As WJMH Media, students produce daily morning announcements for the school, a weekly half-hour newscast that airs on West Liberty University’s WLTV, and occasional news and sports segments for WTRF-TV, WVLY Radio, and WKKX Radio, Mr. Wood said. They have broadcast parades, pageants, and sporting events.

He sent students to Charleston to do stories at the West Virginia Capitol on March 1. Students even filmed a music video for Glen Dale native and John Marshall graduate Brad Paisley in 2007 for his song, “Letter to Me.” The Supreme Court visit will be their first live webcast.

Mr. Wood said some of his students go on to careers in broadcasting while others pursue law, medicine and teaching.

“They are able to communicate well,” Mr. Wood said of his graduates. “Any job you have, you have to be able to communicate. I make them answer the phone. They have to set up interviews with the public. It’s set up like a real live newsroom.”

John Marshall Principal Corey Murphy said, “We feel like we have the very best broadcasting program in the state.”

When Circuit Judge David W. Hummel, Jr., asked him if the students would provide video for the Supreme Court webcast, Mr. Murphy said he quickly agreed as a way to showcase the program and the students.

Participating in such an important way in the Supreme Court visit to Moundsville is a unique opportunity. “We are honored to be a part of it,” Mr. Murphy said.

“The Supreme Court is very grateful to the school for its support of the LAWS program,” Clerk Perry said.

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