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Legal Bound Educational Programs



CYRUS R. VANCE, JR.
DISTRICT ATTORNEY





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Dear Friends,

As the District Attorney of New York County, I would like to acquaint you with the many educational opportunities sponsored by my office. Each program is designed to educate students of this county, as well as to support their parents and teachers. Because I believe that education is a critical component in the fight against crime, I have dedicated the resources of my office to these programs. To achieve success in educating our young people, there must be a collaborative effort among educators, parents, and students. Please take advantage of the opportunities described in this brochure.

Sincerely,

Cyrus R. Vance, Jr.

Assistant District Attorneys teach the following curricula to elementary, junior high, and high school students:

An Overview of the Criminal Justice Process

This presentation explains the criminal justice process in New York County, including what happens when someone is arrested, how a trial is conducted, and how convicted defendants are sentenced.

Belonging to a Gang: The Road to Nowhere

Using a scenario based on an actual case, the curriculum examines the legal and personal consequences of gang involvement. This curriculum encourages discussion of issues such as: Why do young people join gangs? How can children become innocent victims of gang activity? What are the legal penalties for gang-related crime?

Question, Stop, or Arrest

The Laws Governing Police Action

The rules that police officers must follow when questioning, stopping, or arresting a person are explained in this curriculum. The curriculum encourages students to explore the balance between an individual's rights and the Police Department's obligation to prevent and reduce crime.

Crimes in Cyberspace

A Guide for Young People Using the Internet

This curriculum addresses the types of crimes that can be committed over the Internet and how children can fall prey to unscrupulous people who use the Internet. The curriculum outlines precautions that young people can take to stay safe.

Domestic Violence

Adult and Teen Relationship Abuse

This curriculum teaches children about various types of domestic violence, including teen relationship abuse.

Bias and Hate Crimes

Don't Be Tolerant of Intolerance

This curriculum discusses bias and hate crimes, using scenarios that encourage students to explore issues such as diversity, free speech, and the particular threat that hate and bias crimes pose to our democratic society.

How to Better Your Community

This curriculum presents problem-solving scenarios that encourage youth to be pro-active and civic-minded. It also explains how young people can work with their neighbors and with local city government to improve their communities.

Gun Violence and Young People

This curriculum fosters discussion of gun violence and suggests steps that young people can take to prevent it. Using realistic scenarios, the curriculum examines how conflict can escalate into gun violence. The curriculum encourages students to reflect on the causes and consequences of gun violence, and challenges them to consider how to solve conflicts constructively.

“We want to express our heartfelt thanks for taking the time out of your hectic schedule to speak to our students. You were dynamic, inspirational, and certainly quite informative. The words most often used by student and faculty alike to describe your presentation are ‘fabulous’ and ‘right on the money.’”

Principal at a Manhattan High School

Tours of the Criminal Court House

We provide presentations by Assistant District Attorneys, who explain the criminal justice process in New York County and take students, teachers, and community groups on tours of the court system. The tours are usually scheduled for one group daily, from Monday through Friday.

“Thank you for organizing the visit by some of our staff members to the District Attorney’s Office on Staff Development Day. From all accounts the day proved to be most informative. Not only was it a refreshing change of pace for our teachers, but it also provided them with a glimpse into the inner workings of your office. This insight, I am sure, will be especially valuable in our Legal Studies classes.”

Principal at a Manhattan High School

School Staff Lectures

We schedule presentations for school staff on a variety of subjects, including an overview of the criminal justice system, domestic violence, Internet safety, gang prevention, and the laws governing police-civilian encounters. For example, Assistant District Attorneys from our Child Abuse Bureau can discuss with teachers and school administrators issues relating to mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect.

“I thank you for your commitment to public service and for having faith in the youth of today. With the guidance and caring assistance of caring adults like yourself, we will have a better-educated bunch of young adults tomorrow.”

Principal at a Manhattan High School

Presentations to Parent Associations

We offer presentations on topics such as the community approaches to addressing the problem of drugs or gangs in the neighborhood, the criminal justice system, domestic violence, and safety issues related to the Internet. We can also coordinate with concerned citizens to solve local crime problems. These question and answer seminars, led by an Assistant District Attorney, provide adults with the opportunity to learn about topics related to criminal justice. The sessions include a visit to a courtroom to observe a trial.

Internship

We offer an intensive six-week summer program for junior high and high school students who live in Manhattan and have a strong interest in learning about the law.

“Thank you for the pleasure and opportunity to be a part of the Summer Internship Program. It was great that I got to become a part of the city’s judicial system, as well as the experience to work with professionals who are in the area of criminal law.”

Manhattan High School student

Mock Trial Preparation

Assistant District Attorneys are available to coach your school’s mock trial team in preparation for the New York State Bar Association’s High School Tournament held each spring.

