



Office of Community Relations

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

Partnership allows Dysart students to participate in Teen Court

DYSART SCHOOLS — Students in the Dysart School District participate each year in an Advanced Attorney Training certification course as a part of the Safe Schools and Healthy Students (SS/HS) Teen Court program. The students train as advanced attorneys and conduct hearings for the school year.

Through partnerships with the City of Surprise, City of Surprise Municipal Courts, the Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department and the YMCA, Teen Court is both a prevention and diversion program offered as a component of the SS/HS grant. Teen defendants from around the county that have plead guilty to actual misdemeanor offenses such as shoplifting, curfew violations or minor in consumption, can be referred to Teen Court.

During Teen Court, Dysart students serve as jury members, jury foreperson, bailiff, case attorney, victim advocate and clerk. They listen to testimony and deliberate on the cases just as any adult or regular court session would be structured. The jury assigns consequences to the defendant and then the probation officer follows up to ensure that the defendant has fulfilled the consequences. A city court judge presides over the monthly hearings where probation officers, school resource officers and SS/HS staff are also present to guide Teen Court members through the court and trial process. For more information about the Teen Court partnership or other Safe Schools programs, please visit <http://dysart.org/safeschools/> or contact 623.876.7935.

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