CONNECTICUT’S KID GOVERNOR

A NATIONAL AWARD-WINNING STATEWIDE CIVICS PROGRAM CREATED BY THE CONNECTICUT PUBLIC AFFAIRS NETWORK
WELCOME!

Today’s presenters

Brian Cofrancesco
Head of Education, Connecticut’s Old State House
Connecticut Public Affairs Network

Sally Whipple
Exec. Director, Connecticut’s Old State House
Connecticut Public Affairs Network
It is the mission of Connecticut Public Affairs Network, Inc. …to educate the public and advance its understanding of political processes and the development of public policy.
Poll Questions
CULTURE EATS STRATEGY FOR BREAKFAST

- Continuous improvement
- Platforms not programs
- Communities not audiences
- Better not perfect
- How not no
- Bring people in to imagine, plan, evaluate, build—cycle starts again
- Collaborate and understand the value and limitations of your collaborators
- Everything is an opportunity
**Program Strategy Screen**

- Will this program build allegiance to the OSH and/or CPAN?
- Will it serve people across the state?
- Can we build a community around this program?
  Will it lead to future visitation and support?
- Will it enhance people’s understanding of our state today?
- Is it something that people will want to do?
- Does it lend itself to collaboration?
- Will it support Civic Health in CT using our guiding theme: Choosing to Participate?
CONSIDERATIONS

- What do we need?
- What do other people need?
- How can we build on the work of others?
  - Civic Health Index Report
  - Connecticut Social Studies Frameworks
  - National History Day
- How can we work around our lack of money?
- How can this become a media magnet?
- Who needs to be involved and how?
WHAT IS Connecticut’s Kid Governor℠?

- A statewide, in-school civics program for 5th graders
- A free program that immerses students in the election and democratic process through a statewide election for a Kid Governor…all from the comfort of the classroom
- Open to all schools in CT (public, private, homeschool, etc.)
- Classes can nominate a candidate and vote, or only vote
  - Aligned with the new CT Social Studies Frameworks, CT Core Standards, Red White & Blue Schools
WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

Classes Nominating a Candidate and Voting

LEARN
• CT’s 3 branches of gov’t
• Leadership
• Voting and elections
• Identifying/researching community issues
• Developing action plans
• Building campaign platforms
• Filming a campaign video
  • Holding primaries
• Choosing a candidate that will speak for the students of CT

Voting-Only Classes

LEARN
• CT’s 3 branches of gov’t
• Leadership
• Voting and elections
• Choosing a candidate that will speak for the students of CT
Toolkit of Lesson Plans
RESEARCH WORKSHEET

Name: ____________________________

Date: ____________________________

Directions: Use this worksheet to guide your research on the community issue you’ve chosen.

My community issue is: __________________________________________________________

Source Information

Name of Source: ________________________________________________________________

Type of Source:
☐ Book     ☐ Newspaper     ☐ Website
☐ Artifact  ☐ Photograph     ☐ Video
☐ Interview ☐ Other

Research Question

What question do you have about your topic that you can answer with this source?

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Information from Source

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________
**My Platform for Connecticut’s Kid Governor™!**

**About Me!**
My name is ___________ and I want to be Connecticut’s Kid Governor because ___________.

**My Background**
My leadership qualities and characteristics include

What makes you a great leader? What are your strengths?

**My Platform**
I want to change ___________ in my community and our state because ___________.

What is the community issue you’d like to fix and why is it a problem?

...and our state will ___________.

...when we make a difference on this issue.

What will be different when you solve the problem?

What will the community look like when the problem is solved?

**My Three-Point Plan**
To make a difference around this issue, we as 5th graders can:
1. ___________.
2. ___________.
3. ___________.

Think about your community issue and platform.
What three specific steps can your fellow 5th graders take to make a difference around your issue?

We can do this by ___________.

...in our own communities.

What do you need to solve this community issue? Whose support do you need?

**Remember that videos may not exceed 3 minutes and are due by 5:00 pm on Friday, October 27, 2017!**
What does it mean to be a LEADER?

A person who brings the team to the write direction. CONFIDENT: someone who helps others.

Somebody who leads the team to the right direction. Someone who sets a good example.

TEACHER: someone who knows how to teach.

Respectful: someone who treats others with respect.

Leading: someone who sets the tone for the team.

Executive Branch: someone who makes decisions for the team.
Welcoming Remarks

Introduction
  • Mica

Candidate 1
  • Brennan, Bike and Road Safety

Candidate 2
  • David, Enrichment for All

Candidate 3
  • Evan, Bike Lanes

Closing Remarks
  • Time to Vote!

Thank you so much for coming to support our students today!
2016 NOMINEE CAMPAIGN ISSUES

- After school clubs
- Animal cruelty (3)
- Bullying (2)
- Bike lanes
- Bus safety
- Censorship
- Fitness week
- Homelessness
- Kindness (3)
- Littering
- Misunderstood kids
- Pet adoption (2)
- Reading
- Recycling
ANNOUNCING THE CANDIDATES FOR

CONNECTICUT'S KID GOVERNOR 2016™
Towns with Schools Registered to Participate in Connecticut’s Kid Governor 2016-2017!
PERKS OF BEING CONNECTICUT’S KID GOVERNOR

- Inauguration ceremony
- Create videos to share with constituents and other students about his/her community issue
- Run a blog with messages about his/her community issue
- Meet and speak with students and adults across the state
- Participate in programs and events with Connecticut Public Affairs Network
  - Have a special Kid Governor’s Office
2017 Connecticut’s Kid Governor

Jessica Brocksom
Helping Animals, Those Without a Voice
John F. Kennedy School
Milford
Inauguration Day 2017
Westminster Dog Show
ANIMAL THERAPY DAY AT THE CAPITOL
CKG Jessica on Capitol Hill
Welcome to "Helping Animals, Those Without a Voice," the official blog of 2017 Connecticut's Kid Governor™ Jessica Brookscor! Learn more about Jessica's campaign, the humane treatment of animals, ways you can speak up for animals, and how you can make a difference in your community by reading her regular blog posts and by visiting CT.KidGovernor.org.

Friday, May 5, 2017

Special shout-outs to people helping animals!

I want to start by giving shout-outs to everyone who is collecting donations like toys, treats, food, blankets, or towels for their local pounds and shelters! To learn more about holding a collection drive, read my blog post "Help animals in your community by planning a spring collection drive" or visit CT.KidGovernor.org/collection-drives.

Reading through messages left for me by students and adults in my office at the Old State House!

I would also like to give shout-outs to those who have recently visited my Kid Governor Office at Connecticut's Old State House. Students and visitors have participated in my "Helping Animals" activity by writing what they can do to help animals on paper, which is then sent to Special Assistant to the Governor.

Follow CKG Jessica and her campaign to give animals a voice!

Email address:  
Submit

About Me

CT's Kid Governor

View my complete profile

Learn more about Connecticut's Kid Governor™ and the Connecticut Public Affairs Network:

- Connecticut's Kid Governor

Blog Archive
Welcome to the official website of Connecticut's Kid Governor™

Congratulations to Jessica Brocacom of John F. Kennedy School in Milford for being elected as the 2017 Connecticut’s Kid Governor™.

Watch CKG Jessica’s latest video about how you can hold a collection drive in your own town to benefit your local pound or animal shelter.

Learn more about CKG Jessica’s platform Helping Animals, Those Without A Voice HERE!

Announcing our 2017-18 Kickoff Workshop!
Wednesday, May 17, 2017 - 5:00pm - 7:15pm
Central Connecticut State University, Social Sciences Hall

Free and open to both new and returning teachers/administrators who want to participate in the Connecticut’s Kid Governor program this fall!

Click HERE for details and to register!
Student Action Resource Center

Welcome to the Connecticut's Kid Governor℠ Student Action Resource Center!

The CKG program teaches students like you that we can all make a difference in our communities. In fact, it is our responsibility to be active participants in our society in order to make it better!

Whether you ran as a candidate in the 2016 Statewide Election, voted in the election, or heard about CKG through the news, the following resources will help you think about community issues you care about and take action!

What is a community issue?

Community issues are problems or concerns that a community (town, neighborhood or other community group) has and believes they can fix.

Do you notice any problems in your school or town? Perhaps you notice bullying in the hallways, litter on the streets, people in need of food, or animals in need of help. These are all examples of community issues, and there are many more. For inspiration, watch the campaign videos of past CKG candidates HERE and HERE.

What community issue do you want to see changed in your school or town community?
2017 Medallion Award from the National Association of Secretaries of State

2016 Leadership in History Award from the American Association for State and Local History
Unintended Consequences

- Built/strengthened relationships with elected officials
- Engaged all types of students, even students who struggle in the classroom
- Fostered empathy in the classroom
- Encouraged field trips to Connecticut’s Old State House
- Schools built community around the program
  - Involved other grades
  - Some are building the program into their curriculum!
- Resulted in new collaborations with other groups
TIPS FOR SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAMS

• Seize opportunities as they arise
• Be open to new ideas and collaborations
• Connect with your state’s Department of Education
• Develop clear, easy-to-use resources
• Align with curriculum/frameworks/standards
• Engage a Teacher Advisory Committee for new perspectives, to build buy-in, and to build a program they will want
• Involve elected officials – they love kids taking action!
• Find out what issues are of interest to kids in your community/state
• Consider what will attract the media
• Keep participation costs low
QUESTIONS?
CT.KidGovernor.org

Brian.Cofrancesco@KidGovernor.org
Sally.Whipple@cga.ct.gov