



Daviess County Public Schools

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PHOTO ATTACHED

DCHS educator honored for lesson

Teachers across Kentucky engaged students at all grade levels in lessons about the U.S. Constitution during Constitution Week (Sept. 17-23), with an emphasis on the census, which the Constitution specifies is to be conducted every 10 years for the purpose of determining Congressional representation.

Kentucky educators submitted descriptions of their classroom activities for a chance to win \$500 for their schools. Daviess County High School social studies teacher Cindy Stilwell was selected as the state winner at the high school level.

Stilwell heard about this program at the Kentucky Council for the Social Studies on Sept. 14, while attending a session titled "Civics and the Census: Why Does Everyone Count?" That session included information about Statistics in Schools, a classroom resource sponsored by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Intrigued by what she had learned, Stilwell explored the Census Bureau's website – <https://www.census.gov/schools/> – and discovered three activities that aligned with her lesson plans.

"I modified and used the 'reapportionment' activity I found under the website's Constitution Day resources so that my 12th grade students in U.S. Government would better understand what the ideal population for each congressional district in Kentucky should be, versus what the population in each district actually is," Stilwell said. "Then I used a chart found in the 'apportionment' activity so we could discuss population shifts from one census to the next and how that impacted the number of representatives a state has. I also found a game that pairs the states and territories against one another in a bracket; students have to make their best guess as to which is more populated. I will introduce that game as I finish this unit on the Electoral College so my students can see how knowing which states have more population means they have more representatives and therefore a larger electoral number."

Stilwell said it is important for all residents of Kentucky and the United States to understand the significance and potential impact of participating in the upcoming 2020 Census. "I want my students to realize they need to get their families to fill out the census form," she said. "The census is about more than just getting more representatives in Congress. It determines how much federal money will be allocated to our state for each of the next 10 years. Every single person counts. The Census Bureau creates all kinds of statistics about who we are as a people based on the answers they receive on the census form. It's really crucial that everyone is counted."

Note – Our media partners are invited to visit Daviess County High School at 4255 New Hartford Road and see Cindy Stilwell in action as she and her students explore the importance of the Census. For more information or to schedule interviews, contact her at 270-852-7300 or cindy.stilwell@daviess.kyschools.us

For more information, contact DCPS Public Information Officer Lora Wimsatt
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