

Press Release

Why should Antioch High School students care about the current impasse in Illinois state government? Why should they care that the lack of state budget is holding up road repairs or could force massive transportation cuts by the Chicago Transit Authority?

On November 6 three Illinois House Representatives—JoAnn Osmond, R-Antioch; Elaine Nekritz, D-DesPlaines; and Julie Hamos, D-Evanston—will answer these questions for Antioch juniors and seniors who are members of Seminar for Scholars, a program started by Principal Mike Nekritz. Selected by their teachers for their intellectual curiosity, these students discuss cutting-edge contemporary issues, which reflect differences in values.

Prior to meeting with the representatives, the students will read articles on the problems derailing Illinois state government this year and will be prepared to ask probing questions about the opposing values underlying these disagreements.

After meeting with the students, the representatives will get an opportunity to observe how a public high school fulfills its many responsibilities: special education needs, state reporting requirements, curriculum changes, school improvement goals, and disciplinary issues.

Last year Seminar for Scholars examined the balance between the public's safety and the rights of the accused with a noted Chicago civil right lawyer. They tried to unravel the complexity of the No Child Left Behind Law with two experts on education, and learned about the threats to our privacy posed by the Internet from a Microsoft vice president.

At the end of the day students will better understand state government and state leaders will better appreciate the issues faced by a contemporary high school.

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