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For more information, contact:

Mickey Schoonover

Director of School-Community Relations

(314) 213-8025

Dr. Mike Fulton

Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

(314) 213-80067

Pattonville celebrates Constitution Day

On Friday, Sept. 16, schools in the Pattonville School District joined the rest of the nation in celebrating Constitution Day. A federal law enacted last year requires all public schools to formally observe Sept. 17 as "Constitution Day," the anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787.

Under the new law, schools are required to conduct educational activities relating to the Constitution on this day. This year, however, the event falls on Saturday, so Pattonville schools have planned special activities for Friday, Sept. 16.

Pattonville will take part in the nationwide, unison recitation of the preamble to the Constitution at 1 p.m. (central time), Friday. All schools viewed a DVD of Pattonville's superintendent, Dr. Hugh Kinney, reading the preamble and giving a brief message about why the Constitution is relevant to students' lives.

In addition, all schools conducted age-appropriate lessons and activities centered on the U.S. Constitution and the freedoms it carries for all Americans. At the elementary level, lessons focused on what laws and rules are, how laws help communities and how the U.S. Constitution is a framework for the U.S. government and its laws. At the high school level, students participated in exercises that gave thought to what it would be like to live without some of their guaranteed freedoms. At middle school level, students compared the U.S. Constitution to the draft of the new Iraqi Constitution.

In addition, Sept. 16 was named Patriotic Day in Pattonville, and all staff, students and volunteers were encouraged to wear patriotic colors (red, white and blue).

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