

## Service Learning Project



## Don't Reinvent the Wheel

- ... Beg, Borrow or Steal - Frederick County, VA
- School champion
  - Superintendent's focus on mentoring
  - Department Chair
  - Teacher
  - Insert in curriculum ... timing is everything

## What the Program Looks Like

- Honors/Field Government
  - Unit 1 - 4 (9 weeks): Foundations of Government; Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branch
  - Unit 5 (January – May): City of Harrisonburg
- 3-4 teams of 4-5 students
  - 2 days/week; 2.5 hours/day
- Mini Units: racism, capital punishment, political parties, state and local government

## Objective

- Stop “lumping” local government in with “government doesn’t do anything” or “government operates on a continuing resolution”
- Have students coming to us saying “I want to be a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator”
- To provide an understanding of local government concepts, social responsibility and civic awareness through a mentorship with local government personnel in the City of Harrisonburg. This project will assist students in building necessary skills to ensure preparedness for postgraduate life.

## Goals

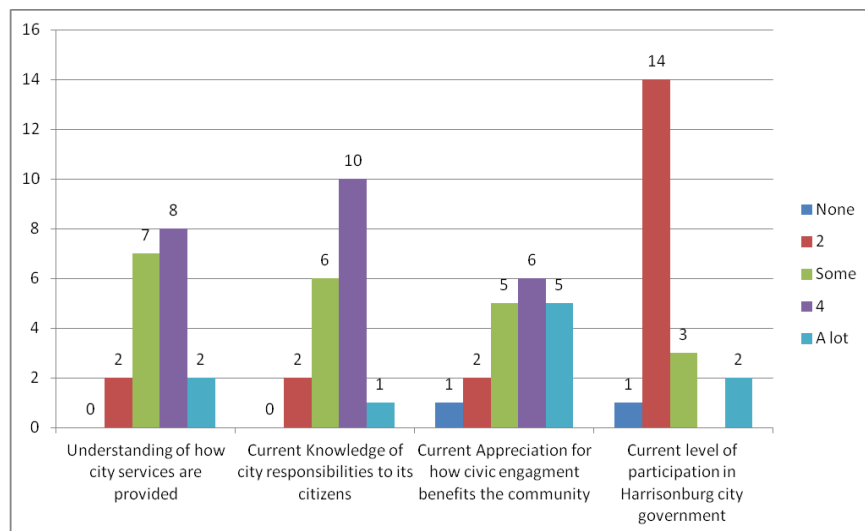
- Enhance students' knowledge of the local community and government through meaningful, real-life experiences.
- Heighten students' learning by enabling them to use skills and test classroom knowledge through related experiences in our local community and government.
- Teach students how to identify community issues and needs.
- Develop a deeper understanding of American Government academic concepts.
- Build upon skills such as problem solving and group work as well as public speaking and presentation.

- Improve various interpersonal communication skills including: effective listening, attentiveness, problem solving, decision making, leadership qualities, flexibility and adaptability.
- Strengthen critical thinking skills involving the ability to identify issues, being receptive to new or different ideas, and foreseeing the consequences of one's actions.
- Assist students in discovering and identifying new interests, abilities, and opportunities for the future.
- Promote the concept that students can have a positive effect on their surrounding environment through civic engagement.
- Encourage students to become more integral members of their community.

## First Day Orientation

- Council-Manager Structure
- Council’s Role
- Role of the Mayor
- Role of the City Manager
- About our departments

## Pre-Test



## Final Reports

- Presentation to Council *during* televised and recorded City Council Meeting
- [http://harrisonburg-va.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=4&clip\\_id=262&meta\\_id=16335](http://harrisonburg-va.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=4&clip_id=262&meta_id=16335)

## Post Test

