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THE RULE OF LAW RULES ALMS

By: Angie Tabor Posted: Wednesday, February 25, 2009 9:24 am



ALMS students watch a film about law in class (Photo by Angie Tabor)

Students dressed in their professional best walked the hallways of Andrew Lewis Middle School on Feb. 20. Lawyers and judges visited and answered questions in social study classrooms. Sixth District Congressman Bob Goodlatte, who is a Republican, was the key speaker at an assembly held at the end of the day for the student body.

However, seventh grade social studies teacher Greg Gallion's class was fortunate to have Goodlatte come into the class and speak to them about how "The Rule of Law" applies to them personally. The guest speakers were part of a project of the Virginia Bar Association Foundation.

Goodlatte first complimented the students for their professional, polished look. He explained to the class that laws were set up to help individuals, protect them and make their life easier. He screened a short film about the "Rule of Law."

"This is very important to learn because we live in a civilized society," he said.

After the film was over he introduced the class to one of the speakers in the film, G. Michael Pace Jr., former president of the bar association, who came up with the idea after discussions with his daughter about what she was learning at ALMS. He also made references to help the students understand the Rule of Law, explaining that Atticus Finch from "To Kill A Mockingbird" was a believer and practiced the rule of law. "He was an honest and outstanding citizen, who believed all people, should have the same rights and abide by the same law," Goodlatte told them. "He used the rule of law to try to set Tom Robinson free in the story."

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