

Transdisciplinary Theme

How We Organize Ourselves

How We Organize Ourselves an inquiry into the structure and function of organizations.

During this unit of inquiry our students will look at such questions as: How do representative governments work? How do you become elected? What is the electoral process? How are other styles of government established?

Students will learn about different countries in shared reading and analyze the similarities and differences in governing structures. Students will read newspapers and CNN Student News and make observations about how current events are related to the countries they studied.

During this unit students will plan a mock election on a topic of their choice (decided as a grade). They will make commercials and posters and participate in debates to inform and persuade the voters (student body and faculty).

Students will take on a variety of roles in their mock election: campaign workers which handle voter registration, poll workers, and ballot box officials. Students who actively campaign will not be allowed in the polling space so as not to intimidate the voters. Look for our results posted on the website benmays.spps.org

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Central Idea

Governing structures have evolved over time and impact their people.

Lines of Inquiry

- The philosophical basis for different forms of government
- History of governing bodies
- The impact of governments on its people

Transdisciplinary Skills

Thinking: analyze and synthesize research

Research: three Branches of Government (structure and function)

Communication: listen, speak, write about our election in campaign related events and materials

Key Concepts

Causation, Change, Perspective

Learner Profile

Risk-Taker, Principled, and Open-Minded

Attitudes

Creativity, Commitment, Tolerance

