

Order In The Court

Justice knocked at the door of the future

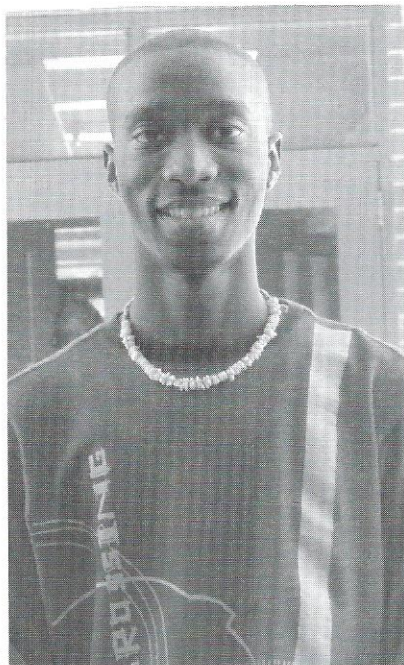
The Youth Court program, helped keep students in school and out of trouble. It gave them hands on experience with mock trials. Deputy Alyssa Bodison, the advisor over youth court, has helped keep the members organized and on task. The court had seventeen members and more students became interested as the program advanced. "At the beginning of each year, students can go to Ms. Bodison's office and fill out a form to join," senior Sasha Brown said.

Youth Court members had different roles in court such as: bailiff, court clerk, solicitor, and defense attorney. Mr. Thomas or Mr. Cleveland played the judge in the mock trials. The students had to deal with real cases and real trials. They used Mr. Thomas' classroom for their meetings and court sessions. "We get a lot of help from the teachers, from the parents and from the community. They helped with fund raising and anything else that we may need assistance with," sophomore Lakenya Yates said.

Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Chisolm, Mrs. White, and Ms. J. McMillan also volunteered and helped the members with their cases and meetings. The program had many successful activities that helped the community. "We had so much fun last year with everything we did. Even when I could not make the meetings everyone informed me on anything that I needed to know," senior Dustin Deloach said.

-Lastanza Rivers

"This program has helped me a lot with everything that I have been through this year. I've learned many new things and I'm very thankful."
Dustin Deloach,
12th grade



Busily brainstorming about the next case, seniors Sasha Brown and Tangale Wiggins keep themselves busy before the meeting begins. "I try to make every Youth Court meeting but sometimes I can't and officer Bodison understands," Tangela said.

"The Colleton County Youth Court has been an effective program since 2002. The students that come through the Youth Court program are held accountable for their actions. Our Youth Court volunteers learn responsibility as well as the law and our criminal justice system," advisor Alyssa Bodison said.

