



Website



Contact



Biography



News

October 29, 2009

10th Year of Visiting Our Area Classrooms

Since serving in the House of Representatives, I have had the opportunity to visit with hundreds of students from our area. It is hard to believe that this is my 10th year visiting classrooms in Southeast Missouri, and I am always amazed at the eagerness of these students to learn and their curiosity about state government. Each year, I look forward to the opportunity to meet 4th graders and talk about my role as their state senator, the value of staying in school, and how state government works for them.



Students at Immaculate Conception in Jackson are made honorary Senators and speak on proposed legislation

My goal when meeting these students is to bring civics to life. Visiting with students and talking about their lives, about school, and about what I do in Jefferson City is a great experience and one I look forward to all year. I also have the opportunity to see our local classrooms first-hand and meet with teachers, which is a valuable experience in Jefferson City as we work to improve education and the needs of our schools.

This year, I visited 4th graders at *Marquand Zion Elementary* in Marquand, *Fredericktown Intermediate School* in Fredericktown, *Warren*

Hearnes Elementary in Charleston, *A.J. Martin Elementary* in East Prairie, *Alma Schrader Elementary* in Cape Girardeau, *Blanchard Elementary* in Cape Girardeau, *Clippard Elementary* in Cape Girardeau, *Franklin Elementary* in Cape Girardeau, *Cape Christian* in Cape Girardeau, and *Eagle Ridge Christian* in Cape Girardeau. I also visited *Jackson Junior High School*, in Jackson where I had the privilege to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and then visit classrooms with Principal Cory Crosnoe.



In addition to many students I have met, I also *all 4th graders should do 5 hours of homework a night.* had the opportunity to meet with teachers and Superintendent Al McFerren of Scott County Central School District before the school year to discuss their concerns about future funding of Career Ladder. There, I was able to renew my commitment to supporting teachers through the continued funding of this very important program. Funding education was also the topic in my presentation to the Cape Girardeau School Board in July. The presentation highlighted Missouri's commitment to funding education and protecting teacher's retirement system.



Students at St. Vincent DePaul are eager to share their proposal on reading incentives

In January, the General Assembly will return to Jefferson City for the 2010 legislative session, however my opportunity to meet with students continues as many classes visit their state Capitol. This is no easy trip, and I appreciate the students and parents that wake up early to make the trip up to Jefferson City. We make sure these groups get the most out of their visit, and see all the sights including the Thomas Hart Benton murals in the House Lounge, the Senate chamber, and even trek to the top of the Capitol Dome

This year, students from *Cape Christian* in Cape Girardeau, *St. Vincent DePaul* in Cape Girardeau, *Chaffe Elementary* in Chaffee, *Alma Schrader* in Cape Girardeau, *Clippard Elementary* in Cape Girardeau, *Franklin Elementary* in Cape Girardeau, *Blanchard Elementary* in Cape Girardeau, *St. Paul Lutheran* in Jackson, *Immaculate Conception* in Jackson, *St. Augustine* in Kelso, and *St. Vincent DePaul* in Perryville all made the trip to Jefferson City.

Visiting the Capitol is not just for school groups, though. If you haven't already, or if you wish to come again, I hope you work a visit to the Capitol into your schedule. If you want to see the House and Senate in action, then plan to visit sometime between mid-January and mid-May. Free guided tours are available Monday through Saturday, on the hour, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. except 12:00 p.m. On Sunday, the only tours available are the House Lounge tours at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. For more information, or to schedule a tour, call our office at (573) 751-2459. We will be happy to schedule a tour or assist you in any way so we can make the most of your visit.



Jason visits with students and parents from St. Augustine Elementary School on the Missouri Senate Floor

Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions, and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: jcrowell@senate.mo.gov or visit me on the web at <http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>.

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