

Lakeland Preparatory School Criminal Justice Students Experience Federal Court in Action

On November 21, 2024, Lakeland Prep students visited the District Court. The visit began with students observing a live sentencing hearing before U.S. District Judge John T. Fowlkes, Jr. Following the hearing, the students participated in a discussion with Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Smith, Assistant Federal Public Defender Presita West, and U.S. Probation Officer Michael Alston. The panel answered questions and provided insight into the role their offices play in the criminal justice process.

U.S. Marshals Deputies Joe Beidl and Casey Reasonover added to the experience by sharing details about the duties of the Marshals Service and took the students on a behind-the-scenes tour of their operations.



The group had lunch and a Q&A session with Chief U.S. District Judge Sheryl H. Lipman, U.S. District Judges John T. Fowlkes, Jr. and Thomas L. Parker, and Chief Magistrate Judge Tu M. Pham. The judges engaged the students with questions and posed for a group photo.

