

Welcome Back Teachers for 2014!

Thursday, September 4, 2014

Welcome back to a new school year. The Secretary of State's Office is pleased to present the 2014 edition of our award-winning Promote the Vote program. This will be our 18th year of offering Promote the Vote classroom activities to Mississippi's teachers and students. We anticipate this will be another successful and rewarding experience.

Our Agency has worked for several months with the Mississippi Department of Education to update our curriculum to complement Mississippi's new objectives for Social Studies and other subject areas. We have also added new supplemental activities designed to encourage thought-provoking discussions about civic responsibility and the political process.

The theme for 2014 is "It's My Party!" This year, the program focuses on political parties and their role in federal, state and local government. The emphasis is reflected in the curriculum, activities and the Promote the Vote contests. Information on all of these activities is available under our secure login.

The biggest change you will see for 2014 is the update of our Kindergarten through Grade 5 curriculum. We have taken the Mississippi Social Studies framework and developed grade-specific lesson plans and activities which align directly with the competencies outline for each grade level. Each of the lessons includes hands-on, participatory activities designed to educate students on the concepts presented.

For the upper levels, the refreshed 2014 curriculum includes new grade-adaptable lesson plans designed to cultivate classroom discussion on various government and political topics as well as integrate current events into established teaching objectives. Of course, any of our materials may be used at the discretion of the teacher for any grade level.

On October 27-30, students will participate in the 2014 Mock Election. Students will cast a ballot for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives races. Prior to the General Election, we will post a downloadable student ballot and a tally sheet for your use in submitting for our statewide results. Results must be submitted to our Office by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 30, to be included in the statewide results.

If you have not already, please register your school/classroom online today. We also ask you to encourage your fellow teachers to sign up as well. Registration will remain open through mid-October.

Information regarding the 2014 contests is now available online. Please begin sharing the contest options with your students as soon as practicable. We will begin accepting entries on November 1.

Thank you for participating in Promote the Vote. If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, please contact our office at 601-359-6344 or by email at ptv@sos.ms.gov.