



September 3, 2019

Dear Students and Parents,

The Office of Social Studies is excited to share a scholarship contest for students who participate in the Schools in Court Program. **The Better Choice-Better Tomorrow** contest has been developed by the Schools in Court Team and is supported by Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

On December 13, 2015, Kason Donato, a loving young father and fiancé, was killed by a driver who had been drinking alcohol. After the driver was convicted, Kason's mother courageously stood up in front of the Court and asked the Judge to help her son's legacy live on. She asked the Judge to tell Kason's story to students in the hopes that those young people would never make the same mistake as the driver that killed her son. Kason Donato's legacy lives on through the lives his story will touch and the people who will be impacted as they hear his story.

**The Honorable Vincent A. Mulieri/Kason Donato Annual Student Spotlight Award** is given to students who keep Kason's legacy live by encouraging other students to make better choices for a better tomorrow. This award will be granted through the **Better Choices-Better Tomorrow** contest in conjunction with the Schools in the Court program.

Schools in Court, hosted by the Anne Arundel County District Court in Annapolis, brings high school students from around Anne Arundel County to court to learn firsthand about the consequences of making bad decisions. Students watch actual criminal court proceedings, learn about the legal and financial consequences of being charged with offenses such as drunk driving, and hear from people who have experienced the personal and life-changing effects of poor choices. The students will also get a chance to meet members of the Maryland State Police K-9 squad.

The Schools-In-Court: **Better Choices–Better Tomorrow** contest will extend the experience beyond the courtroom. Students will create and submit Public Service Announcements that reflect on their experience and empower other students to understand the power of making the correct choices. The winning student(s) will receive a cash award and a shadowing experience to go behind the scenes of the courtroom.

For questions about this program, please contact:

Eve Case  
AACPS Social Studies Coordinator  
410-222-5440  
[ecase@aacps.org](mailto:ecase@aacps.org)

## Schools in Court: Better Choices-Better Tomorrow Contest

The **Anne Arundel County Schools in Court** program invites all participants to compete in the **Better Choices-Better Tomorrow Contest to win the Honorable Vincent A. Mulieri/ Kason Donato Annual Student Spotlight Award.**

**Think about:**

- What did you learn during the Schools in Court program?
- How could your learning help other kids?
- How could you creatively share your learning?

This contest has been created to both honor the namesakes and to extend the vital learning points of the Schools in Court Program.

We invite all students to create an entry that reflects their experience during the Schools in Court program.

Students can base their entry around any of the topics that were presented during the Schools in Court session that they attended.

<b>Potential Topics</b>	
Destructive decision making	Driving while impaired by drugs or alcohol
Driving while distracted by friends or using a cell phone	Drug use
Social media misuse	Theft or vandalism
Peer pressure	Student rights

Would you like to see your work featured on AACPS TV or heard across the county on Crab Radio?

**AACPS fame, an opportunity to shadow and cash prizes are all possible!**

### **Award Information for Winning Entries**

Winners will be eligible for several awards including:

- o A shadowing experience with a member of the Schools in Court team
- o A cash prize
- o Public viewing of their entry
- o Recognition in the courtroom.

## Schools in Court: Better Choices-Better Tomorrow Contest

We invite students to be creative in their submissions and use their imaginations! Students can work in groups of 2 or 3 on an entry.

Entry Options	Requirements
Public Service Announcement (Video with Audio)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be original material that is saved as a MP3 or WMV file.</li> <li>• May not exceed 3 minutes.</li> </ul>
Public Service Announcement (Audio Only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be original material that is saved as a MP3 or WMV file.</li> <li>• May not exceed 3 minutes.</li> </ul>
Music Video	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be original material that is saved as a MP3 or WMV file.</li> <li>• May not exceed 3 minutes.</li> </ul>
Rap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be original material that is saved as a MP3 or WMV file.</li> <li>• May not exceed 3 minutes.</li> <li>• Or it may be submitted typed. May not exceed 1500 words</li> </ul>
Poem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submitted typed. May not exceed 1500 words</li> </ul>
Persuasive Essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submitted typed. May not exceed 1500 words</li> </ul>

As you create your entry, consider the **Criteria** on which it will be judged.

Judging Criteria	Questions to Consider
<b>Connection to a Schools in Court Topic</b>	Does the entry provide the audience with information that connects to a Schools in Court topic in a relevant and appropriate manner?
<b>Clarity of Message</b>	Can the audience clearly determine what message the entry is trying to get across?
<b>Strength of message</b>	Is the message portrayed in a way that will convince the audience of something and make them think about the topic in an in-depth manner?

### Entry Details

- All submissions must be submitted within 30 school days of attending the program.

Schools in Court Date	Submission Date
10/24/19	12/6/19
12/12/19	2/4/20
2/6/20	3/20/20
4/2/20	5/20/20

- Submissions can be sent digitally or via AACPS basket mail to Eve Case (ecase@aacps.org) at the Board of Education (2644 Riva Rd, Annapolis).
- Winners will be announced after the final submission date.