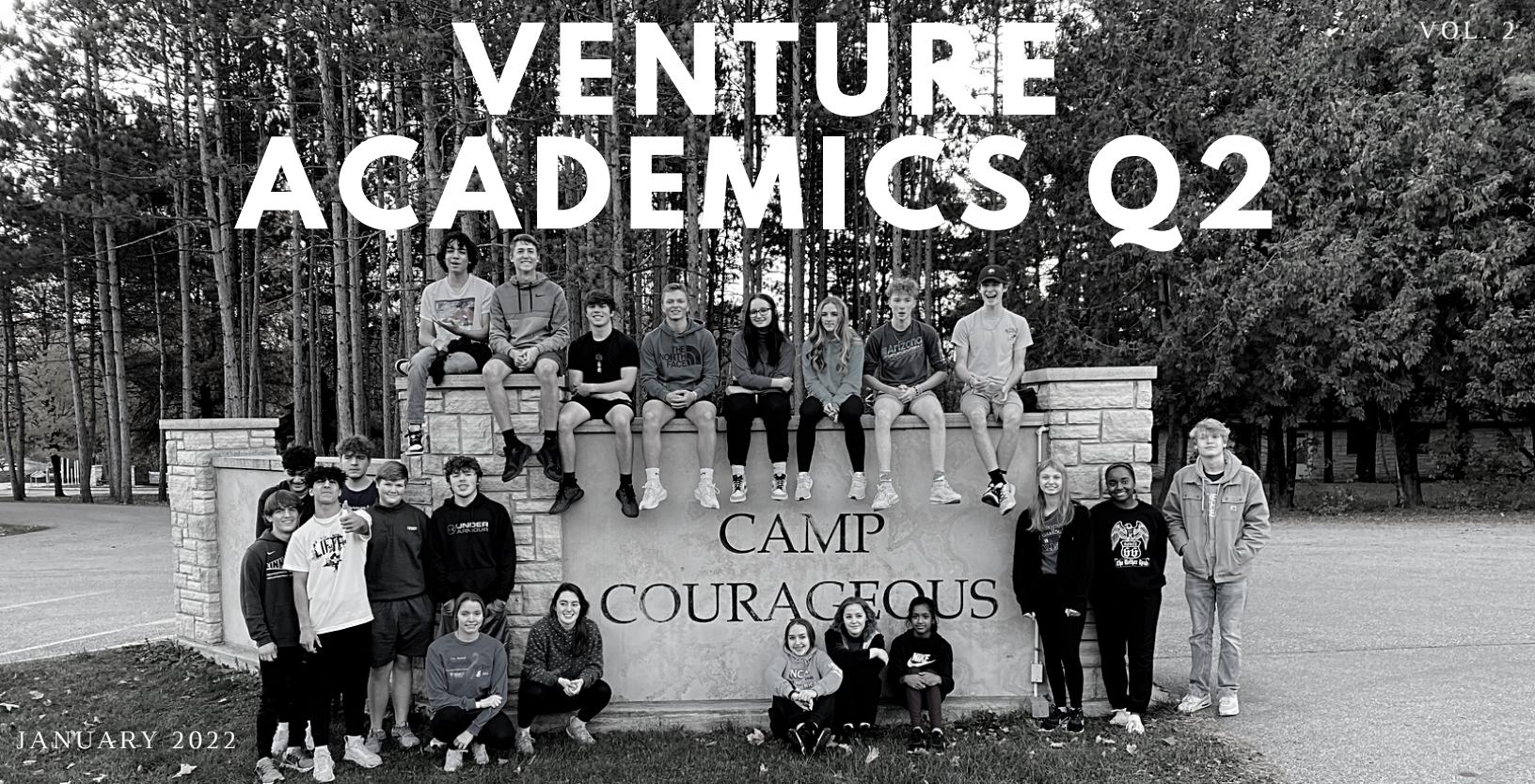


# VENTURE ACADEMICS Q2



JANUARY 2022

## Community Engagement: Legal Panel & Mock Trial

Civics is a Venture strand that includes Government, Law and the Constitution, and an English component.

Civics teacher Hank Gehrls helped to organize a legal panel to show students what it is like to work in the Criminal Justice System. Several local professionals participated including a district judge, a prosecutor, a defense attorney, a police officer and a court reporter. Students were then able to ask questions of the panelists.

Monica Slaughter, a Linn County Prosecutor who spoke on the panel, expressed interest in guiding students who were currently working on a mock trial case. She and fellow Linn County Prosecutor Ryan Decker met with students for several weeks, helping them to understand and prepare for various aspects of courtroom procedure. They worked on how to word questions, how to structure arguments, how to raise objections and how to present exhibits. Students then participated in a mock trial at the Linn County Courthouse. Slaughter and Decker served as judges while parents served as jury members. One of the Venture Civics students said, "Being coached by experts in law helped me learn the information better. Having the trial in a courtroom made the experience seem more real and challenged me to do my best."

### Venture Promo Video:

Watch a short video that shows what the Venture experience is like. [VENTURE PROMO](#)

HERE'S THE SCOOP:

**MOCK TRIAL**

**VENTURE PROMO VIDEO**

**STEM INNOVATOR**

**SUPPORT**



Mock Trial at the Linn County Courthouse



Legal Panel



Palisades State Park

## STEM Innovator: University of Iowa

Venture teachers have partnered with the University of Iowa STEM Innovator program, which is designed to equip students with STEM innovation and entrepreneurship skills to prepare for the ever-evolving workforce.

Students who complete the STEM component and achieve a passing score on the STEM test are eligible to earn up to three college credits. The

STEM component challenges students to solve authentic problems by working in teams and collaborating with community partners. At the end of the first semester, 22 Venture students qualified to receive college credit and eight students scored in the top 10 percent nationally.

Congratulations to these students!

## Support for Venture

We have been fortunate to receive support from many different entities. This month we would like to highlight support provided by the Linn-Mar Foundation and the Linn-Mar Class of 1976.

In the fall of 2021 The Class of 1976 generously gave Venture a gift of \$1100 and the Linn-Mar Foundation awarded Venture a grant of \$32,400. These funds are being used to purchase 4K computer monitors, 75" and 85" TV monitors, a large format printer, a laser color printer, and science equipment such as microscopes, probeware for water testing, etc.

*"This support has been instrumental in helping Venture Academics take flight! Digital Design & Communication will be significantly enhanced with the addition of a 44" large format printer, 12"x18" laser printer, and 51" rotary cutter. These professional tools will provide a real-world connection between project-based learning and career pathways. A most sincere thank you to everyone who enriches the lives of our students!"*

- Chris Thilges, Linn-Mar Visual/Graphics Teacher



Class of 1976



Business students tour Legacy Manufacturing



Tina Patterson LMFT, Tanager Place



Kathy McKee, Blank Park Zoo