

Justice Teaching resources keep volunteers prepared

Thought about joining the Justice Teaching movement — designed to provide interactive constitutional education to all Florida school children — but are unsure what you would say to the kids?

No problem. The program provides training throughout the year and provides a wealth of teaching aids on its Web site.

“I have done the standard ‘Invaders lesson’ each year, that I downloaded from the Justice Teaching Web site,” said JT volunteer Todd Q. Clarke, who has given a Bill of Rights class to every fifth-grader at Maplewood Elementary School in Coral Springs, where his 11-year-old daughter and 9-year-old son both attend. “The only thing I have done differently this year is I have incorporated the PowerPoint presentation that was added to the Web site. That has made the presentation much more interesting.”

Clarke, a senior attorney for JM&A Group, which provides finance and insurance advice to the automotive industry, is a second-year Justice Teaching volunteer.

“This year, I worked with the administration and got their commitment to let me give the presentation to all seven of the fifth-grade classes,” Clarke said. “Next year I hope to do two presentations for each fifth-grade class. I’d like to do the Invaders presentation in the fall and a second presentation in the spring. It’s been very fun so far, and the kids really seem to like it.”

If you enjoy working with students and helping teach about the courts, our governmental structure, and the Constitution, Justice Teaching welcomes your help, said JT coordinator Michelle Ballard.

“You will be contributing to an ongoing exercise in democracy and helping our next generation become better prepared to understand, protect, and improve our institutions of democracy,” Ballard said.

To volunteer, visit and fill out the [online application](#). Volunteers may select from a list of available schools in their area. A time commitment of no more than two hours a month will be needed. Activities and lessons will be provided via the Web site, which also lists available training sessions.

For more information, e-mail justiceteaching@flcourts.org or call Ballard at (850) 922-8926.