



How do you engage with students after a long winter break? With civics of course!

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As you can imagine, January is a difficult time for students and teachers as everyone tries to get back into the learning routine while preparing for upcoming projects and exams. After the long winter break, students often have trouble re-engaging with schoolwork and can become overwhelmed and disengaged from learning.

Morven Park's education team helps to break up the monotony by delivering civics curriculum directly to the classroom and getting the students to think critically again. Shaking up the routine so soon after returning from winter break can help prevent the stress or boredom students might feel after taking on all those post-holiday responsibilities.

Many of the programs run by Morven Park are game-based or involve a fast-paced activity to engage students in a unique way. These activities allow students to have some fun and think outside the box while staying in line with their class curriculum. For example, middle schoolers learn about effective communication by creating their own World War I propaganda posters and explore deliberation and compromise through a Progressive Era problem-solving game.

These programs not only help to re-engage students in the learning process, but also allow the burden of planning to be lifted off the shoulders of teachers, at least for one day. Coming back from the holidays can be just as challenging for teachers as it is for students. Teachers must get their students back on track while keeping their classes on schedule for the last half of the year. Morven Park's educational programs are developed and run by Park staff, allowing the teachers to take a step back for the day without losing any valuable learning time.

Providing Loudoun County students with solid civics education curriculum is the number-one goal of Morven Park's education team, but if our lessons can help break up the back-to-school blues that some students—and teachers—may feel in January, then that is an added bonus.



Middle schoolers participating in the Kitchen Table program