



## Community Expert Talks Special Scuttle Edition

*Once a month this year, Southwest is bringing in different community experts to talk to our students about different issues going on in their lives. The purpose of these is to educate our students about the issues they face and to help add to their social and emotional "toolbelt" to help them through the different issues they face. Each month will have a different theme with a different community expert. In these scuttles we will give you a bio of the speaker, what their overall message is, and talking points you can use at home as well.*

### September Theme: Choices

Meet September's Community Expert

Name: Dr. Greg Jones

Position: Freeborn County Assistant District Attorney

From: Rockford, Illinois

Day He Spoke to Southwest Students: Wednesday, September 6th



### The Message:

Dr. Jones first stated to students Gestalt Theory, which is that the whole of anything is different than its individual parts and then asked students what that meant to them. Dr. Jones then talked to students about his life story and how his Mother was on disability, his Father was addicted to drugs, his brothers were convicted murderers, and sister had issues stealing. He himself struggled in elementary school but had a teacher in 5th grade that helped him turn around his life.

Instead of letting those situations define him, he decided to make a choice that he was going to use those life experiences to learn from and become a better person. He earned his college degree and law degree in New Orleans while working as a substitute teacher.

After going through different scenarios, Dr. Jones talked about family legacy and that sometimes people go against what their families have taught them because they want to be cool to their friends. Dr. Jones again brought up the Gestalt Theory to students and let them know they don't have to be defined by their individual circumstances. The choices they made yesterday don't have

to define them today. He reminded students to make sure your individual choices don't make you the whole of what you don't want to become.

### Family Talking Points:

1. Ask your student(s) about the Dr. Jones talk with them.
  2. Ask your student(s) what they want their future to look like?
  3. Ask them what are some choices you made today to help you reach this future?
  4. Ask them what are some choices you made today that didn't help reach this future?
  5. Ask them what are things I can do as a parent to help you make decisions today that help make you reach your future goals?
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**Jillann Luoma**

Jillann is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters