



EVENT NOTICE – Wednesday, November 12, 2025
Fargo Public School District #1

The following information is for media outlets for the purpose of assigning staff coverage to the event.

STUDENTS TO PUT ‘TELL-TALE HEART’ NARRATOR BEFORE THE JUDGE IN MOCK TRIALS

Thump-thump. Thump-thump. Thump-thump. The sound of a dead man’s heartbeat roars in the ears of a murderer as he takes the stand. Will he be sent to prison or will his defense hold?

- WHAT:** Tell-Tale Heart Mock Trials
WHEN: **Friday, November 14** (see times below)
WHERE: Discovery Middle School, 1717 40th Avenue South, Fargo
CONTACT: **Crystal Ridl**, Discovery English teacher, ridlc@fargo.k12.nd.us or 701.446.3539 for more information.

As part of a unit on “The Tell-Tale Heart” by Edgar Allen Poe, Discovery Middle School eighth grade Enriched English students will participate in mock trials of the story’s narrator during periods 1, 3, 4, and 8 on Friday.

In the story, the narrator has murdered a man and hidden his body under the floorboards of his home. When the police come to investigate the missing man, the paranoid murderer begins to hear his victim’s heartbeat in his own head. The heartbeat gets louder and louder and the murderer gets more and more paranoid until he finally confesses to the murder.

While the narrator has confessed to the murder, he is now standing before a judge to determine whether he can claim an insanity defense. Students will present evidence and testimony for and against the narrator as they carry out a trial.

Fargo Public Schools General Counsel Tara Brandner will serve as the judge and will pronounce the narrator either guilty or not guilty based on the insanity defense.

Trial times:

- Period 1 (8:45-9:32 a.m.)
- Period 3 (10:24-11:08 a.m.)
- Period 4 (11:12-11:56 a.m.)
- Period 8 (2:46-3:30 p.m.)

[END]