November Newsletter

AP Psychology
AP U.S. Government
AP U.S. History

October Recap

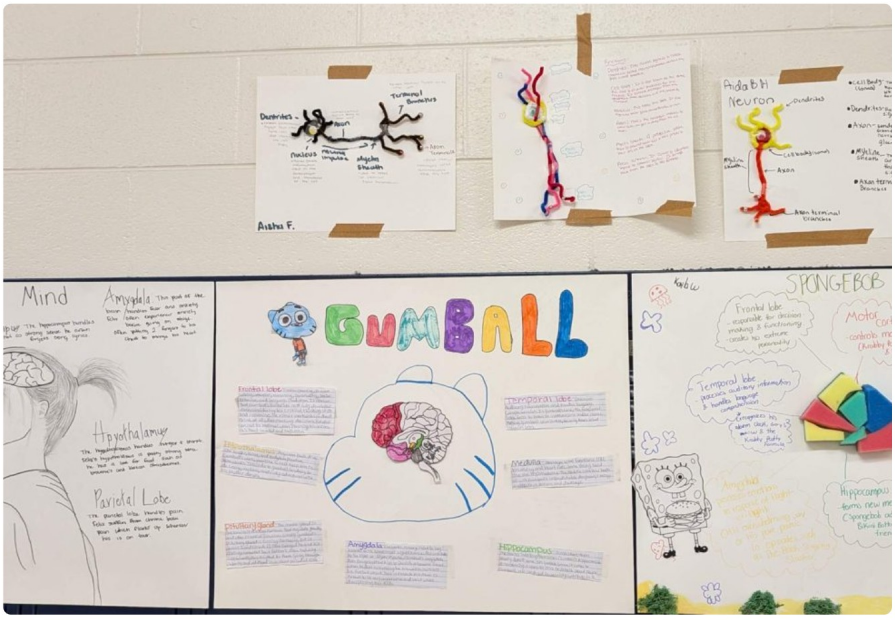
AP PSYCHOLOGY

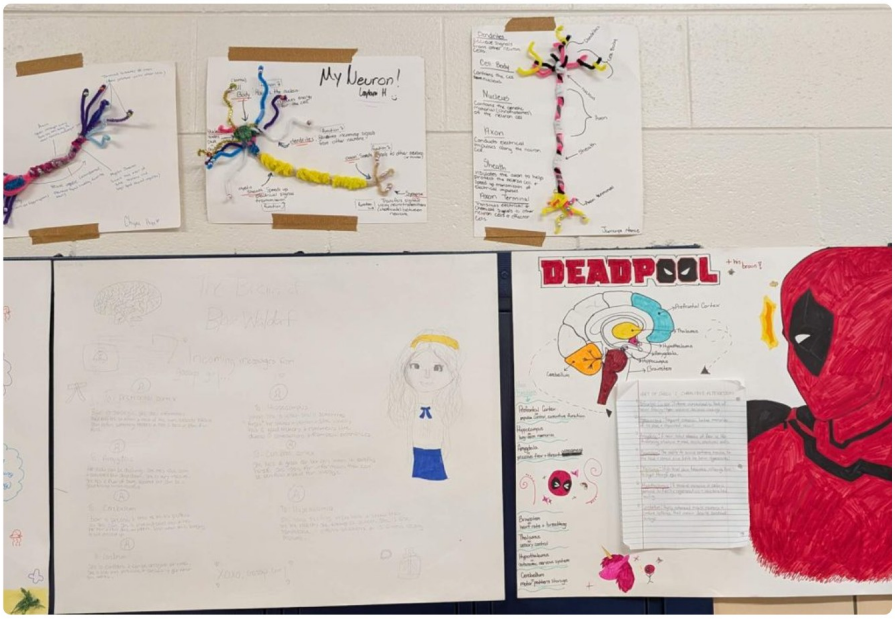
Brains, from the cell up

Students built neurons out of pipe cleaners and labeled every part: dendrites, cell body, axon, myelin sheath and axon terminals.

Then each student analyzed a famous person's or character's brain. SpongeBob, Gumball, Blair Waldorf and Deadpool all made an appearance, with each brain region tied to how that person thinks and acts.

We also visited Randolph College to explore their Psychology Department, classes and laboratories.





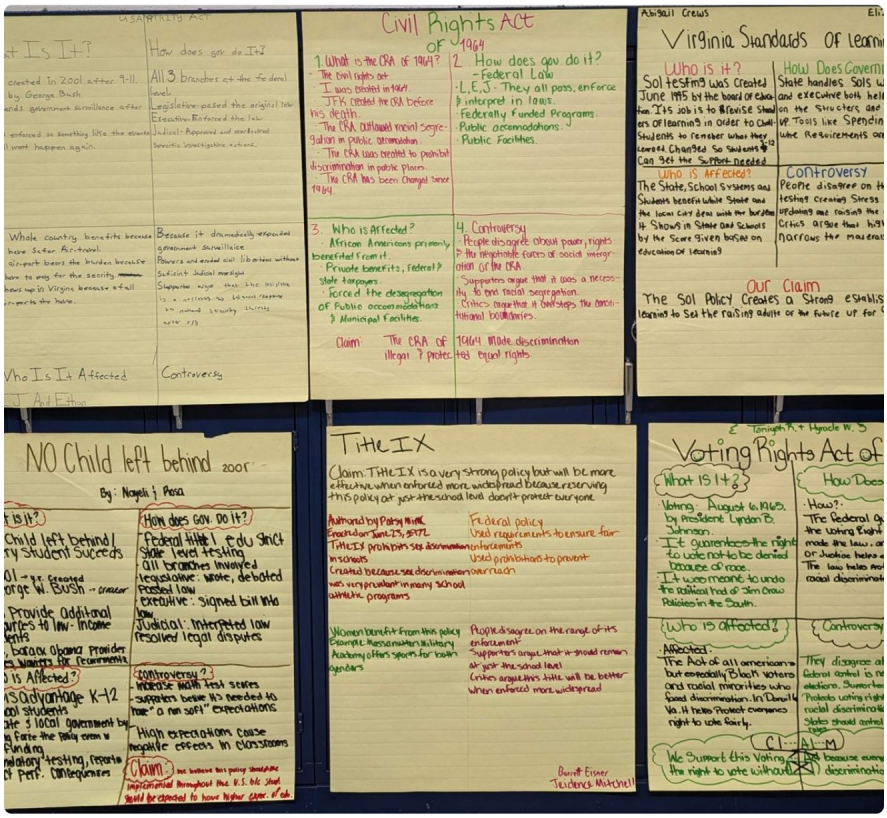
October Recap, continued

AP U.S. GOVERNMENT

Policy on the poster board

Students became policy analysts. In pairs, they took on a real public policy, such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Title IX, No Child Left Behind, Virginia's SOL testing or the USA PATRIOT Act.

Each poster answers four questions: What is it? How does government carry it out? Who is affected? What's the controversy? Then every pair defended a claim of their own.



Coming Up in November

AP PSYCHOLOGY

We're focusing on **Perception**: how the brain organizes and interprets everything our senses take in.

AP U.S. GOVERNMENT

We're moving into the middle of **Unit 5 (Topics 5.6–5.9)**: how interest groups shape policy, and how we elect a president and members of Congress. It's perfect timing right after Election Day!

AP U.S. HISTORY

We're gearing up toward the Civil War in **Period 4**, tracing the growth, reform and rising sectional tensions that set the stage for the conflict.

October Recap, continued

AP U.S. HISTORY

From colonies to a new nation

Students covered Period 3, tracing how loyal British colonists became an independent nation. We started with the French and Indian War and the new taxes that sparked protest. Next came the Declaration of Independence and the Revolutionary War. We finished with the hard work of building a government, from the Articles of Confederation to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and Washington's presidency.

BREAKING NEWS FROM 1776

Hallway Showdown

Speaking of the Revolution, it broke out again right in our hallway. Mrs. Haney arrived crowned as **King George III**, and her teaching neighbor, Mr. Abourjilie, answered the call as **General George Washington.**



TALE OF THE TAPE

IN THIS CORNER

King George III (Mrs. Haney)

Gear: crown, scepter and ermine collar
Position on taxes: strongly in favor
Favorite word: "Loyalty"

IN THE OTHER CORNER

George Washington (Mr. Abourjilie)

Gear: powdered wig and Continental blue
Position on taxes: not without representation
Favorite word: "Independence"

OFFICIAL RESULT

History ruled in Washington's favor back in 1783. His Majesty is formally requesting a rematch. (No tea was harmed in the making of this photo.)