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Actors were special guests on Justice show

Seven students produce 'The After Show'

By AJ Colley
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With a quick, "Quiet on the set," from their camera operator, seven Justice Thurgood Marshall Middle School students were at work on their news program.

The seventh- and eighth-graders produce The After Show three days per week, giving students something to watch after a 12-minute online news broadcast by Channel One.

"We wanted something to fill in that time afterward," said educational assistant Barry Lobdell, who oversees the program.

The seven students work on The After Show voluntarily, receiving no extra credit for the project. The school requires them to include educational components from various subjects, which the kids do by asking trivia questions students can answer. They also read the daily announcements and the school's sports results. Tuesday, they interviewed actors Michael DeLuise and Daniel Roebuck, who are in town working on the Community School of the Arts Christmas show, Home for the Holidays.

Lobdell said the students do the show mostly on their own. They use a \$200 camera and a desk, and they converted an old storage room into the studio. Their backdrop is rolled out paper with hand prints and signatures of the students who run the show. Guests also sign the wall.

"It's just kind of cool," said 13-year-old Brittany Olson, an eighth-grader. "I like the fact that we get to experience technology."

Brittany said the program would be useful if she ends up doing something similar in high school, and it provides good practice for giving speeches and presentations.

She wants to make the show more exciting to the students who aren't watching it, but she's encouraged by students who approach her to talk about the show.

"That makes it exciting, that they actually watch it," she said.

Eighth-grader Jenna Rawlings, 14, would like to see the program incorporate talk show components.

"I've always wanted little coffee mugs and everything," she said.

Students rotate the various roles of creating the show, with everyone taking turns operating the camera, writing a script



Actor Dan Roebuck laughs with eighth-grader Brittany Raver, left, and seventh-grader Gladys Salinas during The After Show at Justice Thurgood Marshall Middle School. jmorehead@chronicle-tribune.com

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and appearing on camera. Jenna said she enjoys being on both sides of the camera.

Seventh-grader Gladys Salinas said she prefers being behind the camera. Other students who run the show are Christian Kelley, Amram Marks, Brittany Raver and Nathaniel McBee.

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