

# NEWS RELEASE

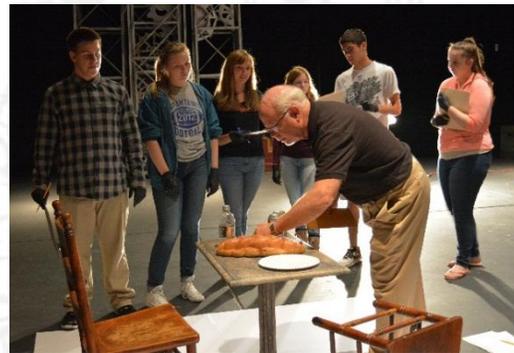
**R. Andrew Murray**  
District Attorney

**April 9, 2014**

## **Students explore forensics and criminal justice with the DA's Office**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – When Community School of Davidson students entered the school's theater this week, they discovered a man with fatal wounds, evidence of a struggle and bloody footprints left behind by the perpetrator. They quickly set about collecting crucial pieces of evidence to help crack the case.

The crime scene was created by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office to give high school students an opportunity to learn about the importance of a precise and thorough crime scene analysis in solving and prosecuting criminal cases. On April 8, 2014, Crime Scene Investigator Kris Woodhouse of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department talked with students about forensics and the manner in which evidence, such as fingerprints or DNA, is collected from various types of crime scenes. Then, Assistant District Attorneys Clayton Jones and Leslie Stephens discussed how that evidence can be used in Mecklenburg County court to prove someone's guilt or innocence.



**Assistant District Attorney Clayton Jones leads students through a mock crime scene.**



**A student photographs wounds on the victim in a mock crime scene.**

Students acted as crime scene investigators working to analyze two crime scenes: the emergency room where the victim died as a result of a gunshot wound and the apartment where the shooting took place. At the emergency room scene, students examined wounds on the victim (a training mannequin provided by CMPD) and sifted through his clothes for identification and clues about what may have led to the shooting. At the apartment scene, students photographed footprints, collected shell casings and placed bottled drinks in evidence bags to be tested for the presence of DNA.

As part of a weeklong program, the Community School of Davidson is allowing its high school students to explore areas of interest. Students participating in the mock crime scenes are interested in criminal justice.

The mock crime scenes are part of the DA's Office's ongoing commitment to educate local students about the criminal justice system. Mr. Jones, Ms. Stephens and Ms. Woodhouse did a [similar program for students](#) at Olympic High School last year.

“Working with young people is a priority for my office not only because we want them to grow as informed citizens of our community but also because we recognize the importance of allowing students to explore the possibility of someday working as our colleagues in the criminal justice system,” says District Attorney Andrew Murray.

To see more photos of the mock crime scene investigations, visit [www.facebook.com/CharMeckDA](http://www.facebook.com/CharMeckDA).

*Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com). For updates and other information, “like” the DA's Office on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/charmeckda](http://www.facebook.com/charmeckda) and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.*

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