



## History Day Parent Letter



The beginning part of the year has flown by and we are now headed into a new phase/project in social studies class called History Day. Many of you are familiar with History Day, but to many of the 7th grade students/parents this will be a new process.

I wanted to write this letter to make sure that students/parents have a clear understanding of what History Day is and what we will be doing during February with History Day. The most important piece of information I want to convey to parents is that I am with each student throughout the entire process. My goal is to incorporate chunked due dates to help minimize the work load and to make sure every student is on the same page. I see all student work throughout the entire process and know exactly what each project consists of before I even sit down to grade them after district competition. I meet with all students each week so that I can provide feedback for them...making this process as smooth as possible.

The project will give students a chance to pick a historical topic (based on this year's theme: Triumph and Tragedy to research. Students get to pick a topic that interests them. History Day will incorporate and teach students new skills in such areas as: note taking, deciphering between primary and secondary resources, letter writing (for possible sources), researching, utilizing critical thinking skills, becoming more seasoned speakers, as well as, annotating a bibliography in MLA format. I have uploaded (in Canvas and on my NHD website) my personalized NHD packet that has all the pertinent information.

During Social Studies class, students will be researching and developing a topic that relates to this year's theme, as well as, working to develop historical argument on their topic. Students have already selected their topics. Students have been given hand-outs stressing how important it will be to make the right decision when it comes to working with partners. In past History Day projects, most students found that it was easier working alone. As a class, we have spent time explaining the importance of their decision to either work alone or in a group--students have been given a hand-out that they have read and signed that explains how important it is to make the right decision.

Students will be beginning the process of getting emails sent to various organizations, museums, national parks, and other related areas to request for more information on their topics!

## **Helpful Links for NHD:**

\***Mr. H's NHD website:** <http://twhasko.wixsite.com/h-and-h>

\* **Mr. H's YouTube Channel:** <http://youtube.com/user/whudms>

\***Canvas** (will also have everything that students need-your son/daughter can navigate you here. Nearly 99% of the answers to student's questions can be found in the Announcements section of Mr. Haskovec's SS class in Canvas)

\***National History Day website:** [www.nhd.org](http://www.nhd.org)

With all of this information, it is important for you to understand that this project can be one of the most important and exciting educational pieces of their junior high career. This project will prepare your son or daughter for many of the tasks assigned during high school and beyond. NHD is also an opportunity for students to become experts on a specific topic, while having the excitement of creating their own project. Not only will students be experts on their topic, they will be experts in researching and utilizing that research within their topic thesis. In addition, this project provides students with choices and opportunities for them to show everyone their potential!

We have had tremendous success with this project in the past, and to be honest....it is a great way to make history come alive. What students gain through this project will help them many years down the road.

The competition will be held at the Grout Museum on **March 29<sup>th</sup>**.

The competition is only for students and is not a viewing open to the public. We host an open house from 5:00-6:00 p.m. to share all of the kids' hard work. Performances, documentaries, exhibits, web pages, and research papers of our Hudson Pirates will be open for anyone to view at that time.

I can't think of a better opportunity for a real-life experience than National History Day. This project takes research and practicality to a new level. Not only will this project prepare kids for higher level thinking, it will provide them a base to build on throughout their student career. NHD has always been ahead of its time....this project meets every standard/benchmark or educational trend that out there. This is the type of project that takes authentic work to a new level.

Important dates (included in my NHD packet for students on Canvas)

Sullivan Brothers District Schedule	Date
Registration Deadline	<a href="#">Register online</a> by Monday, March 11, 2019 at 11:59 p.m. CDT
Contest Fee Deadline	Senior Division: Thursday, March 28, 2019 Junior Division: Friday, March 29, 2019
Website Lockout	Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 10:00 p.m. CDT
Papers Due	Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. CDT
<b>District Contest (Waterloo)</b>	<b>Senior Division: Thursday, March 28, 2019</b> <b>Junior Division: Friday, March 29, 2019</b>
Websites Available	Monday, April 1, 2019

Thank you!  
Mr. Haskovec