

HISTORY DAY PROJECT

Dear Students and Guardians,

We are beginning a project in Quest Social Studies and English that will be our largest project of the year. History Day is a nationwide program where students become historians by creating and competing with research projects based on a given theme. This year, the theme is **“Taking a Stand in History.”**

Each student will choose a topic, create a thesis, research it, and develop a major project which will be presented at our own Buffalo Community Middle School History Fair. Some students will advance to the regional History Day Competition. The competition continues to the state and national levels. If your child would like to participate in the Regional Competition, they will need to do additional research and complete a few more steps with their project (see attached check list). You are also responsible for the registration fee. If they advance to state competition or national competition, you are responsible for fees related to this level of further competition as well. (Registration Materials and information for the regional and state competitions will be coming later in February; dates of the competitions are available on the Google Calendar: BCMS MN History Day which is available on our class website).

This project is a very large undertaking and the students will be given time in class to work on it in both Quest Social Studies and some in Quest English. **There is an expectation that students will work on this project outside of school.** They cannot be successful in compiling their research and completing their projects without using time outside of school. Students are encouraged to use the resources found in our own library at school, online, and other public libraries to help with their research. All of the work must be completed by the students; parents can be a sounding board but cannot help with the completion of the project. At the end of the project we know you will be amazed at the quality of work that is created within this project as well as the knowledge that is gained.

Project options include: Individual Exhibit, Group Exhibit, Individual Performance, Group Performance, Individual Documentary, Group Documentary, Individual Website, and Group Website. Students will need to complete an annotated bibliography and a 500 word process paper (reflection) to go along with their projects. Students will be given more information and criteria for the different project options during class.

Mrs. Polaschek or Mrs. Kastendieck will be available after school a few nights throughout this time from 3:30-4:30pm. If students would like to take advantage of this time they need to arrange for a ride home from school at 4:30pm. (I will post the dates I will be available on the class website and let the students know at the beginning of each week which days will be available.)

We would also like to invite you to see the results of the student's hard work. There will be a BCMS History Day Fair on **Tuesday, February 21st**, where students can share their work that they have completed. More information on this event will be coming soon!

Please see the calendar on the class website for due dates, and competition dates and mark your calendars at home. The History Center and History Day Staff have workshops and research days available at different locations. These dates are available at:

<http://education.mnhs.org/historyday/hullabaloos-history-day-research-days>. Workdays, additional due dates and other details will be added to the calendar as we continue on with this process. Please check the website and check in with your student for more information.

Please take some time to look over the calendar and complete and sign the contract. The signed contract is due back to Mrs. Polaschek by **Tuesday, November 22nd**.

Websites that will provide good information for you:

www.mnhs.org/historyday, www.nhd.org, <http://education.mnhs.org/historyday/hullabaloos-history-day-research-days>, <http://education.mnhs.org/historyday/parents>, <http://education.mnhs.org/historyday/students>, and www.elm4you.org.

Social Studies/History Day Calendar Link/documents and more History Day Information can be found on:

Mrs. Polaschek's website at: <https://sites.google.com/a/bhmschools.org/npolaschek/>

If you have any questions please feel free to contact:

Mrs. Polaschek at: npolaschek@bhmschools.org or 763.682.8260

Ms. Kastendieck at: tkastendieck@bhmschools.org or 763.682.8239

Mr. Aldrich at: baldrich@bhmschools.org or 763.682.8262

We are looking forward to working on this project with you!

Sincerely,

Natalie Polaschek, Teresa Kastendieck, and Brandon Aldrich

History Day Contract

Student's Name: _____

Type of Project (The one you are leaning towards at this time – this can change) : (Circle One)

Exhibit Performance Documentary Website

Group (Partner) or Individual: (Circle One) Individual Group

If group write your partner's name(s) here: (Attach copy of letter explaining why you want to work together, How you will split up the work and how you plan to get together outside of school to work on your project)

Advance in Competition? Check yes if you would like to do work above and beyond the minimum requirements in order to be considered to move onto the regional and possibly state and national competition. Check no if you are not interested in competing outside of the school competition. (This can change later)

Yes _____ No _____

Both Individual and Group:

I understand that the History Day Project is a big project that will take a lot of effort on my part. I understand all of the requirements of this project and the due dates I need to meet. By signing below I agree to put my best effort into this project and understand that work time will be provided during school, but that I will have to do work on the project outside of the school day. I also agree to do my own work and not plagiarize any portion of my project.

Student Signature: _____

I understand that the History Day Project is a big project that my child is expected to complete. I understand the requirements of the project and the due dates that my child has for it. By signing below I agree to help remind my child that work on this project has to be done both in and out of school.

Parent Signature: _____

Groups Only:

Choose your group carefully. The group agrees to share equally in all work and expenses. Money may not be spent unless all group members are consulted. Each member of the group will receive the same grade for the project. Only those students named on this form are considered group members.

I agree to work in a group and understand that all students will receive the same grade for this project. I understand that I will need to find time outside of school to work with my partner in order for our project to be successful.

Student Signature: _____

I have noted the names of the student(s) in the group. I understand that all students in this group will receive the same grade for this project and that time outside of school will need to be arranged so they can complete the project together. I consent to my child participating in this group.

Parent Signature: _____