

Students,

Welcome to 8th grade. I will be your social studies teacher this year and I am looking forward to meeting you and working with you in order that you have an excellent experience in this very pivotal year of your education. In saying this, one of the projects you will be working on that will assist you in becoming career and college ready is National History Day or NHD.

NHD is an amazing experience that will allow you to choose from five project categories that will allow you to display your work and educate your audience on the topic you or your group has chosen. Those five categories are, 1. Documentary, 2. Exhibit, 3. Performance, and 4. Website. The 5th category is Research Paper, but this must be done individually. If you are planning to work with a group, I do limit the number of individuals to three, but I will allow up to five if you plan to do a performance.

I am excited to announce the theme for 2023, and that is, **Frontiers in History: Peoples, Places, Ideas.** This theme is broad and almost every idea that you can come up with will fit. Remember that the topic you choose must relate to the theme. It will be the driving force behind all of your research and work. I will be assisting you on how to do this during this school year.

This project is a very long and complicated process. It will take several months to do this properly. **I do not want you working on this over the summer.** Enjoy your break from school. The only thing I would have you do is go to this website NHD.org and read about NHD and the process of how to do this project. Just click on the students tab and then click on the “how to” section which will appear and read it.

I have partnered with NHD in cooperation with LaGrange College. LaGrange College has a wonderful website full of information for you, the student and I encourage you to visit this site often. Go to <https://www.lagrange.edu/academics/undergraduate/majors/history/national-history-day/index.html> I will also have a Canvas page dedicated on every step of this journey for you. It will be a guiding light for that will keep you on track.

This is a 6 month long project. You will have plenty of time to work and complete this wonderful experience. It will teach you the following skills, researching, communication, brainstorming, writing, formulating your ideas, citing your work, project management, time management, and working with others.

Lastly, I will intently scrutinize your work. You will be signing a contract along with your parent or guardian that you will be working on this properly and they understand who you have teamed up with if that is what you have decided. I will be handing this out on the first day of school and it will be returned by August 10th, 2022. I will also have regular checks on your progress because most students have never worked on a project like this one and you will need my help. I will also be calling your parents to ask them to insure that you are actually working on this as school begins and each month after until the final project is due.

Enjoy your summer and I look toward your arrival in my class for the new school year.

Mr. Shively