



In studying the Age of Absolutism, World History students at W-L interview for the position of absolute ruler of their classroom.

APS Opportunities

2016 Festival of the Minds, Kenmore Middle School, June 28 - July 1

The Festival of the Minds professional learning conference occurs annually on the first week of summer vacation and provides a diversity of sessions for all PK-12 instructional staff to hone their instructional practice. At Festival of the Minds, APS staff share their knowledge, skills, and experiences as presenters and facilitators. Teacher presenters are paid for planning and presentation at this conference.

Proposal submissions to present at the 2016 Festival of the Minds Professional Learning Conference are now being accepted. **Social Studies teachers are encouraged to share their expertise as presenters at this conference.** . [2016 Festival of the Minds Proposal Submission Form](#) Notifications regarding acceptances will be sent the week of **April 18**.

Summer School Teaching Opportunities

Applications for social studies summer positions will be available online in February. In addition to the elementary Global Village Summit, there will be several positions at the middle school level, and both virtual and face to face positions available at the high school level. Contact Diana Jordan for inquiries related to the elementary GVS program and Cathy Hix for inquiries related to secondary positions.

Historical Essay Contest – Arlington Historical Society

The Arlington Historical Society, in partnership with Columbia Lodge No. 280, is running an historical essay contest for all Juniors (rising Seniors). Cash awards up to \$1000.00 will be given to the best submissions, and the winning essay will be published in the Arlington Historical Magazine, which is published every October. The deadline for submission is **April 15, 2016**, and essays should be submitted by that date to Max Gross (gross_max@hotmail.com). Click [here](#) for essay topic and an informational flyer.

Tuesday 1/26/15 #APSCHATS.

Taking Back Your PD With PLAYDATE Co-Founder Jennie Magiere

Resources

VDOE posts New TEI (Technology-Enhanced Items)

These practice items are representative of the content and/or rigor of some of the Standards of Learning (SOL) assessment items and illustrate technology-enhanced item types for the history SOL tests. Technology-enhanced items (TEI) require students to indicate their responses in ways other than a multiple-choice format.

The practice items are not intended to be a complete test and are not intended to cover all content for the grade level or course. While the practice items provide examples of some TEI, they are not intended to represent all types of functionality associated with these item types. The social studies SOLs this spring will not include these items for calculating the pass rate. SOL practice items can be found at www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/practice_items/index.shtml

Student Opportunities

Extended Hours for Arlington Historical Society

Starting this month, the Arlington Historical Museum will be open the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 12:30 - 3:30 pm. With these expanded hours, the Arlington Historical Society hopes to serve more students, programs are forthcoming. The museum is located 1805 South Arlington Ridge Road, close to the Pentagon City and Crystal City metrorail stations. More information can be found on their website: www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/

Save the Date for Regional History Day Contest!

History Day is for students grades 6 through 12. Students complete an individual or group project that relates to the year's theme in one of five categories: Historical Paper, Website, Documentary, Exhibit, or Performance. The regional competition will be March 5, 2016, hosted by Mount Vernon High School.

Online registration is opens **Jan. 10 and closes Feb. 22, 2016**. For more information about how to get started and rules, visit <http://www.nhd.org/contest.htm> NHD has posted videos about every entry type. Visit <http://www.nhd.org/classroom-connection/google-hangouts-and-webinars/> for more information—it's a great place to start if you have questions about a category after reading the rule book.

Teacher Opportunities

TPSNVA/Library of Congress Spring Academy Course-

TPSNVA is offering an extensive course for area teachers beginning on **January 28**. Teachers can register on the website – tpsna.org. The course is designed to meet teachers' needs by providing extensive pedagogy and resources from the Library of Congress and by offering 90 recertification points/3 Advanced Academic credits upon completion. See the following [link](#) for more information.

North TIER Partnership Online Courses

North TIER is a non-profit collaborative partnership between 13 North Virginia preK-12 school divisions, higher educational partners and organizations. Its aim is to provide high-quality professional development to administrators, specialists, teachers and technology specialists in order to improve technology use and student achievement. North TIER is currently accepting registration for their online Spring courses, which includes “*Integrating Technology into Your Social Studies Classroom.*”

Spring courses run from February 1 to March 20. Registration deadline is **January 28th**, for a complete catalog of Spring courses and more information, visit their website:

<http://www.norhtier.org>

AP Human Geography Academy 2016 - The Changing Urban Geography of NOVA

This academy will be **March 11, 12 and 13** at Tyson's Corner. Join other APHG teachers for a two-day, two night geographic excursion that includes free lodging, meals, teaching materials, content expertise & professional collaboration, and PD hours. Registration Deadline: **Feb. 12th, 2016**. More information can be found [here](#).

Primarily Virginia: MeadWestvaco online teachers institute

Primarily Virginia is an online course designed for teachers to explore Virginia's past by examining objects and primary sources. These pieces of the past will be used as a lens to examine different historical eras in Virginia history. All course work is to be completed through the course website, and there are no required in-person class meetings.

Primarily Virginia is limited to 30 students and will launch on **February 1, 2016**.

Please register by **January 25, 2016**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1HAbYFAmjCjxHfctYxp8EzXeDmIkq3plkzsjPKm5lAs4/viewform?usp=send_form.

Nominations for the 2016 SOL Item and Test Review Committees

The VDEO Office of Assessment Development is seeking nominations for the 2016 Standards of Learning (SOL) Item and Test Review Committees. The committee meetings will be held in Richmond according to the schedule provided in [Superintendent's Memo 279-15](#). All individuals who wish to serve on the 2016 committees, including those who have previously served, must submit an [online application](#) through the Assessment Committee Application Processing System (ACAPS) by **February 12**.

Teacher Workshop – Capitol Visitor Center

This half day workshop focuses on the “Building and Expanding the US Capitol 1793-1982.” Attending teachers will have the opportunity to work with primary sources including architectural designs, correspondence regarding the Capitol expansion, and excerpts from the Annals of Congress and Congressional Globe.

Workshop is at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center on **Saturday, February 6, 2016 from 9am-12:30pm**, with same day registration from 8:30am-9am. For more information visit www.visitthecapitol.gov/education/professional-enrichment

National History Teacher of the Year Award-Due February 15

This award recognizes outstanding K-12 American history teachers across the country. Visit the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to nominate a middle or high school teacher who teaches American history. All nominations must be submitted on the Gilder Lehrman Web site at <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/programs-exhibitions/national-history-teacher-year-nomination-form>. Nominations **due February 15th**.

Underground Railroad To Canada / Michigan's Underground Railroad--DVD series

PHAR Productions has released a two part DVD series entitled North to Freedom Series: The Underground Railroad to Canada and Michigan's Underground Railroad. In addition to the 2 part DVD set, each DVD also includes two interactive glossaries of terms for classroom review and has two different 4-7 page lessons. This series is not available from your video on demand service. The price per DVD is \$149.00 or \$298.00 for the series. Shipping charges are \$8.95. Preview and order online: www.pharproductions.com

Conferences

National Council for the Social Studies

NCSS 96th Annual Conference will be in **Washington, DC, Dec. 2-4, 2016** at the Washington Convention Center. This national conference with more than 4,000 attendees comes to DC every four years. Attend the conference to gain new ideas, resources, and skills in social studies education. [Registration](#) opens in June and [call for proposals](#) closes **February 16th**.

In addition, organizers of the 2016 conference are seeking volunteers to help during the conference. In exchange for volunteering, participants receive a discount registration rate for the conference. The discount received directly correlates with the volunteer hours. Help is needed at beginning with preparations on Wednesday morning, November 30th and ending with closing on Sunday morning, December 4th. For more details about discounts and specific jobs, please contact Wesley Hedgepeth, wesleyhedgepeth@trinityes.org

Summer Opportunities

Supreme Court Summer Institutes

Street Law, Inc. and the Supreme Court Historical Society will sponsor two sessions of the annual Supreme Court Summer Institute, June 16-21 and June 23-28, 2016. The Institute is open to secondary level social studies teachers and supervisors, who will spend six stimulating days on Capitol Hill and inside the Supreme Court learning about the Court, its past and current cases, and how to teach about them from top Supreme Court litigators and educators. Participants will also be in the Court to hear the Justices announce the final decisions of the term and attend a private reception at the Court. For full information and to apply online (under the “Registration Info” tab), go to www.streetlaw.org/scsi_apply. The application deadline is **March 14, 2016**.

Library of Congress 2016 Summer Teacher Institute Application Now Available

Immerse yourself in the practice of teaching with primary sources from the unparalleled collections of the Library of Congress this summer. Apply to attend one of the following week-long professional development programs for K-12 educators in the nation’s capital. Week long programs run from June 20th to July 29th.

Application Deadline: **February 29, 2016**, click here for more information <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/professionaldevelopment/teacherinstitute/>

NEH Summer Programs in the Humanities for School and College Educators

Each year, NEH offers tuition-free opportunities for school, college, and university educators to study a variety of humanities topics. Stipends of \$1,200-\$3,900 help cover expenses for these one- to five-week programs.

Program topics include:

- Abolitionism and the Underground Railroad
- Central Asia in World History
- The Chinese Exclusion Act and Immigration in America
- Courting Liberty: Slavery and Equality under the Constitution
- And more

For a complete list of program topics, more information and application instructions, please visit the [NEW website](#). Application deadline is **March 1, 2016**.

Summer Study Tour to Germany – Goethe Institute

Experience is what the Transatlantic Outreach Program (TOP) is all about. The study tour’s emphasis is on contemporary German issues relating especially to the political system, economy, culture, education, and environmental sustainability. Additional themes of note include the legacy of the Holocaust, German unification, and European integration. These study tours are designed to provide a comprehensive perspective of modern Germany.

Knowledge of the German language is **not** a requirement. Answers to other FAQs can be found on the [TOP website](#). Application including all attachments, postmarked on or before **January 25, 2016**.

Social Studies Snapshots is intended for elementary and secondary Social Studies Staff to communicate items of importance and interest in a timely matter. If you have an item you would like to include in *Social Studies Snapshot*, please forward it to Diana Jordan (diana.jordan@apsva.us). *Social Studies Snapshots* is distributed the second and fourth Friday of the month. The content of this publication comes from a variety of sources. APS is not responsible for any inaccuracies in resources provided outside the district.