



Arlington
Public
Schools

Social Studies Snapshots

Friday, October 7, 2016



Over 100 high school students from across the division participated in the APS event, "We Are All Arlington: Understanding and Celebrating Our 40 Year Legacy of Immigrants" held at Wakefield HS.

APS Resources & Opportunities

Google Earth on iPads

Google Earth app has been approved division wide for use on student iPads and is anticipated to be pushed out to student iPads later this month.

#APSchats October Schedule

- Oct. 11 – Classroom Management
- Oct. 18 – My Students Have Devices, Now What!?
- Oct. 25 – Zen and the Art of Teaching

The #APSchats team is working on making the chats more accessible to everyone in the county. Hoffman-Boston's Molly Patrician created a [quick tutorial](#) (5 min) about how to participate in #APSchats both via Twitter.com and via Tweetdeck.

APS Historical Markers Video Series

APS is pleased to debut our Historical Markers video series, which highlights just a few of the more than 90 historical markers highlighting important sites in our past. Each week, tune in and watch a brief video about one of these locations. Students will then be invited to do additional research and visit the site to learn more, and respond to questions in the video using a designated hashtag on any social media platform. The video series can be accessed on AETV page on the [APS website](#).

Resources

Teaching Tolerance, Fall 2016

[Polarized Classrooms](#), by University of Wisconsin researcher Paula McAvoy, offers a framework for civic education in an era of political polarization. Because politics can be tricky to discuss in the classroom, teaching about ideology, partisanship and political polarization can reduce tensions students may have around political differences. The nonpartisan resources at this site can encourage students' critical thinking about politics and help jumpstart a political discourse that doesn't end when the bell rings.

Cultural Responsive Teaching Related to the American Indian

Please note that in the new History and Social Science Standards American Indian is the term being used to describe the native populations that were present in America during exploration and colonization. The new standards also include information to correct the misunderstanding that students often have about the presence of American Indians in our society today, not just during colonial times. As you teach your students about the American Indian population, please be cognizant of presenting accurate instead of stereotypical information.

The attached blog (<http://blog.nmai.si.edu/main/2013/11/do-indians-celebrate-thanksgiving.html>) provides some useful information about the teaching of Thanksgiving, an event that is often taught and celebrated in our schools. Thank you to Kenmore teacher Andy Paparella for sharing this article.

VPAP High School Government Resource Library

Just in time for the presidential election, the nonpartisan Virginia Public Access Project is kicking off an education initiative designed to strengthen civic awareness among Virginia's high school government students. VPAP recently launched a [Resource Library](#) for teachers of Virginia & US Government classes. It features a collection of visualizations designed to bring abstract concepts to life.

WalkArlington Walkabouts

Get out and about in Arlington. World Geography students at Jefferson recently took a walking tour of the Nauck neighborhood for a mapping project. Find ways to use Arlington neighborhoods to enhance the curriculum. Visit walkarlington.com to find great walking tours of Arlington neighborhoods.

End of Course SOL practice items available on TestNav8

These End-of-Course (EOC) practice item sets are now available in TestNav 8: World History I, World History II, World Geography, Virginia and United States History, and EOC Reading. The practice item sets are accessible through the installable TestNav 8 application. [This link](#) takes you out of the Virginia Department of Education website. The downloadable application varies by operating system and is available for certain desktop computers, laptops, and tablets. Instructions for installing the TestNav 8 application are available on the VDOE website.

Student Opportunities

National Geographic Bee Registration

Schools with students in grades four through eight are eligible for the National Geographic Bee, and any paid school employee can [register their school online](#). The National Geographic Bee registration fee is \$100 per school until December 22, 2016, and \$120 from December 23, 2016 until registration ends on January 23, 2017. Map and globe moneys may be applied to Bee registration. Contact Diana Jordan if you would like her to serve as the emcee/moderator at your school Geo Bee.

Governor's Challenge in High School Voter Registration

Governor McAuliffe announced the 2016-2017 Governor's Challenge in High School Voter Registration. This challenge will allow high schools across the Commonwealth to compete to register the highest percentage of their voting-age population. Schools that reach or exceed 65 percent will receive a congratulatory certificate from the Governor.

If your school would like to participate in the challenge, please have your school's point of contact fill out the registration form at the following address: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VDOE_Governors_Challenge_Reg Once your school has completed the sign-up process for the challenge, the Virginia Department of Education will send the point of contact listed on the form specific instructions on the rules for the challenge and participation instructions. The challenge will run **September 27, 2016 through April 28, 2017**. Accordingly, please use your school-specific URL for the duration of the challenge.

Every Kid in a Park Blitz

As part of the National Park Service Centennial, the 4th grade Presidential initiative, Every Kid in a Park, has been renewed. That means that 4th graders can receive a pass for the student and immediate family to get into national parks and public lands for free during their 4th grade year! Students would only need the passes is a printout from the website, everykidinapark.gov. Teachers can visit the site to print out a classroom set. The pass is considered government property, so a printed out voucher is needed for each pass the park distributes. Contact Jen Rudnick at jennifer_epstein@nps.gov to set up a time for a park ranger visit.

"If I Were Mayor" Student Essay Contest

Each fall the Virginia Municipal League (VML) invites all Virginia 7th Graders to participate in its "If I Were Mayor" essay contest. The essays describe what the student would do as mayor to make their cities and towns great places to live. Promoting good local government is important to VML, and this essay contest provides students the opportunity to reflect on the important role of elected officials in their own city or town. Check out the [VML website](#) for contest details, essay deadline is Thursday, Dec. 1.

Mount Vernon Programs - Admission Discount for Local Title One Schools

Through the generosity of The Ford Motor Company Fund, we are able to offer a 50% admission discount to local Title One schools for any of these special student programs. Likewise, a \$50 rebate for each bus is offered for those qualifying Title One schools who book the Colonial Days or Road to Yorktown program. Apply today.

National Mock Election Opportunities

The Youth Leadership Initiative (YLI) provides opportunities for students to participate in the political process by simulating an election in their school. Teachers can sign up free of charge for YLI at <http://www.youthleadership.net/central/signup>. For further information, contact Meg Heubeck at (434) 982-5726, by e-mail at mfheubeck@virginia.edu, e-mail YLI at ylihhelp@virginia.edu, or call (866) 514-8389.

Lee-Jackson Educational Foundation Scholarship Program

The 2016-2017 Lee-Jackson Educational Foundation Scholarship Program is now available for Virginia students. Eighteen scholarships will be awarded to Virginia high school juniors and seniors submitting outstanding original, analytical essays on any aspect positive or negative of the career, character, or legacy of General Robert E. Lee and/or General "Stonewall" Jackson. Scholarship funding is available from \$1,000 to \$10,000. The application and reporting forms are located on the Lee-Jackson Educational Foundation Web site at <http://www.lee-jackson.org/>. Deadline for students to submit applications and essays to their high school principals is **February 3, 2017**. Questions? - Stephanie Leech, Scholarship Program Coordinator for the Lee-Jackson Educational Foundation, at Leejacksonfoundation@yahoo.com.

Strong Men and Women in Virginia History- Due November 11

High school students in Virginia are invited to participate in Dominion Resources' and the Library of Virginia's Strong Men & Women in Virginia History essay contest. Find out [more information here!](#)

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 2017 theme: Taking a Stand in History. The regional competition will be March 4, 2017, hosted by Mount Vernon High School. Questions? Contact District Coordinator: Michele Longo at Michele.Longo@alexandriava.gov, 703.746.4739. More information is available on the [Mount Vernon Website](#).

Virginia History Day

Virginia History Day is a history competition for students grades 6-12. To qualify for the state competition, students must place first or second in their category and age division at one of eight district-level competitions held throughout Virginia. For more information about how to participate in Virginia History Day, contact Bill Obrochta at 804.342.9651 or wobrochta@vahistorical.org. You can also follow Virginia History Day on Facebook and Twitter.

<http://www.vahistorical.org/collections-and-resources/learn/virginia-history-day>

Teacher Opportunities

Teacher Showing of *Harvest of Empire* – Oakridge Elementary

A group of Oakridge teachers are hosting a series of annual film showings to create a dialogue for educators about students' experiences. Please join in the showing of [Harvest of Empire](#) which looks into the stories of immigrant families from South and Latin America. Come view the film for free & get credit on ERO. (Register on ERO OAK2603). The showing will be October 20, 2016, 4:15 - 6:00, Oakridge Elementary, room 104. If interested, contact [Dawn Amin-Arsala](#) for more information.

EdCamp NoVA Fall 2016

EdCamp NoVA is an unconference devoted to K-12 issues and ideas for any educator in Northern Virginia. The event will be on **Saturday, November 12, 2016 - 8:00 AM – 1:30 PM** at Chantilly High School. Free, EdCamps are comprised of sessions that are determined on the day of the event. Anyone who attends can be a presenter and sessions are reliant on the "law of two feet" that encourages participants to find a session that meets their needs. [Click here to register](#).

VCEE Economic Education Mini-Grants

[VCEE Mini-Grants](#) are available to expand economic and financial education in the classroom. Apply today, the **deadline is October 21**.

Conferences

Special Rates for National Council for the Social Studies in DC

This year's National Council for the Social Studies annual conference is **December 2-4, 2016** in Washington D.C. To encourage local teachers to attend the conference, NCSS is offering a special rate for Virginia residents. Please use this link to access the special "locals" rate - it is not available from the conference website. http://www.socialstudies.org/conference/local_registration/regform
Questions about NCSS registration? Email David Bailor at dbailor@ncss.org.

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 first and third 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.