

HISTORY HAPPENINGS

Volume 1, Issue 3

CASD Social Studies Department

December 2022

Department Teacher Spotlight:

**Mrs. Roper – 10th Grade World History
Carlisle High School - McGowan**

Mrs. Roper is currently in her 22nd year of teaching. She received her undergraduate degree from Messiah University in 2001 in social studies education. She received her first masters in education from Wilkes University and her second masters as an education specialist from Seton Hall in mental health counseling. She loves teaching primarily sophomores because it is a magical time in their life. They have grown from 9th grade, are learning to drive, and are excited about learning. Mrs. Roper started her teaching career focused on U.S. history and government. She has come to love teaching world history now, as it provides an opportunity to help students understand the connectedness of our world and also offers them a chance to learn about people and places they might not otherwise get to learn about. Mrs. Roper loves to read and just finished reading *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver. She is also passionate about mental health and currently facilitates "B3: Breathe, Balance, Be You," an anxiety support group at the high school. Students might be surprised to learn that Mrs. Roper started her teaching career in Carlisle and completed her student teaching here as well in 2001! While she has a tough time identifying with a particular superhero, as an adult she appreciates that almost all of the popular superheroes we know were created during a difficult time in human history, encouraging us to empower others, inspire those who suffer inequality, and bring hope to those who need it. They show us the best of who we can be.



**Mr. Busillo – 11th Grade Civics/World Religions
Carlisle High School – McGowan**

Mr. Busillo is currently in his 15th year of teaching. He has two undergraduate degrees (Philosophy '05 and History '08) both from West Chester University of Pennsylvania. He also holds a master's degree in special education, also from West Chester University of Pennsylvania. He loves teaching at the high school

level, as it is such a cool age and really the beginning of a huge transition from adolescence to adulthood. It is just a neat process to watch! Mr. Busillo enjoys teaching both civics and comparative study of world religions because, in both subjects, students take time to explore the deeply held beliefs of the people around us. This exploration may lead to understanding and, hopefully, tolerance. A fun fact for Mr. Busillo is that he has two bicycles named Ollie and Moe – after Oliver Hardy and Moe Howard. His mom thinks he's cool! Students may be surprised to learn that Mr. Busillo is a teetotaler – for some reason, students find this really hard to believe. If he could be any superhero, Mr. Busillo would be Iron Man. He does not have any superpowers and, although he is defective, he acknowledges this and tries to be better as a person.



Congratulations, Mr. Neely!

The entire department would like to congratulate Mr. Neely (CHS-Swartz) for recently being named VFW Post 477 "Teacher of the Year." Post Commander Rick Olson made the announcement in mid-November. Noting that Neely is an educator and a combat veteran of the

Gulf War era, his nominator wrote, it is these experiences that allow him to "exemplify to his students the feeling of Americanism and then provide them with a voice in our democracy, whether service member or civilian. Neely is able to transfer the stories and lives of veterans into living and breathing case students of American history." Judging criterion



includes citizenship, innovation, resources for development, and passion for teaching. Mr. Neely will now be considered for State Teacher of the Year by the PA Department of Veterans of Foreign Wars. He also was the guest speaker at the Veterans Day program held at the Cumberland County Courthouse on Friday, November 11, 2022. CONGRATULATIONS, MR. NEELY!!!

Department Happenings: What's Going On in Our S.S. Classrooms?

CHS Thanks Local Veterans:

On Friday, November 11th several students at Carlisle High School had the unique opportunity to meet and interview 18 veterans about their service to our nation. Each of the veterans were treated to a full-service meal provided by the CHS

Culinary program's students.

Afterwards, each student was paired with a veteran to learn more about their experiences of serving in the military, asking questions about when/where they served, how their service impacted their lives, and what advice they

might give to future generations. The CHS Social Studies department would like to thank each and every veteran for their service to our nation. **THANK YOU!**



Mr. Roeder's AP Government Classes:

Students in AP Government classes had the opportunity to hear and learn about what it is like to play the role of a lobbyist in government. Ms. Rene Diehl, who works as a government affairs counselor for K & L Gates, spent time with students talking about what all her job entails and how lobbyists work at the local, state and federal levels of government. K & L Gates is a multinational corporation law firm with offices all over the globe.



National History Day at CASD

Many of our students are hard at work doing research and piecing together their sources and information to create a National History Day (NHD) project around the theme "Frontiers in History: People, Places, and Ideas." The local CHS competition for all CASD students in grades 6-12 will take place on Saturday, February 4, 2023 at the Swartz building. A reminder to all students that the final application for their project is due to Mr. Wagner by Friday, January 6. The application can be found on our district website NHD page located [HERE](#).



NOTE: We are currently looking for judges that would be willing to assist in helping with the NHD Local History Day program. Each year requires about 50 volunteers to help evaluate projects. No history background is necessary, just a love for learning something new about history! And new judges are paired with experienced ones and an easy-to-use scoring rubric is provided in advance. If interested in being a judge, please contact Mr. Kevin Wagner at wagnerk@carliseschools.org or (717) 240-6800 x26132. Thank you!

Important December Dates in History

December got its name from the Latin word "decem" (meaning ten) because it was originally the tenth month of the year in the calendar of Romulus c. 750 BC which began in March. The winter days following December were not included as part of any month.

- 12/1/1955 – Rosa Parks sets off a bus boycott
- 12/4/1954 – First Burger King opens in Miami, FL
- 12/5/1933 – Prohibition comes to an end
- 12/7/1931 – Ford produces the last Model A
- 12/7/1941 – Pearl Harbor attacked by Japanese
- 12/10/1948 – UN passes Declaration of Human Rights
- 12/13/2003 – Saddam Hussein captured by U.S. forces
- 12/14/1972 – Last men walk on the moon
- 12/17/1903 – Wright brothers make first flight
- 12/18/1966 – "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" airs
- 12/21/1913 – First crossword puzzle published in paper
- 12/24/1865 – First organized meeting of KKK members
- 12/27/1932 – Radio City Music Hall opens
- 12/28/1945 – Congress recognizes Pledge of Allegiance