HISTORY HAPPENINGS

Volume III, Issue 18 CASD Social Studies Department September/October 2024

Department Teacher Spotlight:

Mr. Natale – 9th U.S. History/11th Civics/Law
Carlisle High School – Swartz Building

Mr. Natale is entering his 10th year as a teacher and CHS is happy to welcome him back. He is a graduate of Carlisle High School! He received his undergraduate degree in political science with a minor in international relations from York College of PA and returned to receive his teaching certification from Wilson College. He received his graduate degree from Millersville University. Mr. Natale says his favorite thing about teaching high school students is that you can engage them in a higher level of discourse and discussion. He enjoys teaching about social studies because you get to share the collective human experience with young people and illuminate for them how we might achieve similar triumphs and avoid similar horrors in the future. Two fun facts about Mr. Natale – he enjoys hiking and likes to weightlift. Students might be surprised to learn that he is typically shy and introverted. If he could be any superhero, Mr. Natale says he would not want to be someone else, but if he could have a superpower, it would be the ability to time travel – of course!

Mr. Shook – 9th U.S. History/10th World History
Carlisle High School – Swartz Bldg.

Mr. Shook is starting out his first year of teaching! Prior to this, he spent 20 years in the United States Army Special Operations. His experience took him all over the U.S., as well as globally from Europe to Africa and the Middle East in both combat and peacetime operations. Mr. Shook earned an undergraduate degree in history from the University of North Carolina Fayetteville State University, a graduate degree in history with a focus in ancient and classical periods from the American Military University, and a post-graduate certificate from Liberty University up to All but Dissertation (ABD) in History. He is currently a graduate student at Penn State University earning a second master's in education. Mr. Shook loves anime and playing video games (sure our high school students can relate). He also likes to call his classroom "the Stoa" (originating from the Greek for porch). When asked what might surprise students, Mr. Shook just stated, "I'm actually old." (That is his great sense of humor coming out.) If Mr. Shook could be any superhero, he would be Captain America because of a line that resonated most with him from the MCU film, *Captain America: The First Avenger* – "I don't like bullies; I don't care where they're from."

Department Happenings:

Did you know the CHS Model UN team holds an annual Carlisle Christmas Craft Show each year? This year's 15th annual show is set for Saturday, November 2, 2024, from 9am-3pm at the high school. Admission is free and there will be over 225 vendors this year!!!

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENT

On **Thursday, October 3, 2024, at 7pm**, Carlisle High School will host a special screening of the documentary, ***Undivide Us***. America is at a crossroads where politicians, news media, and social media fan the flames of toxic partisanship that have led many Americans to question whether they can trust their fellow citizens. ***Undivide Us*** stands as a beacon of hope and a call to action. You can see a preview HERE.

Senior Voter Registration Drive

Once again Carlisle High School's social studies department has teamed up with the Governor's Office to attempt to register 85% of all eligible seniors to vote before May 2025. If CHS can reach this milestone, we will receive the Governor's Civic Engagement Award. Carlisle High School has a strong history in the seven years of this program, obtaining six Gold-level awards (2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, and 2023) and one Silver-level award (2020). Can we do it eight years in a row? If you know your son or daughter will turn 18 on or before the November 5th election, please have them reach out. They may get the application from Mr. Wagner, any social studies teacher, or the McGowan main office. Students can also register online HERE. **The application deadline for the November 5th election is October 21st!**

Contests & Competitions

There are many opportunities for our 6th-12th grade students to write and win cash prizes or scholarships. Here is a list of upcoming opportunities. More are adding monthly via the district website. Find more at our department website – click the link below:
https://www.carlisleschools.org/academics/subject/social_studies/news___awards

VFW Competitions

(Essay & Application due to Mr. Wagner by 10/30)
Grades 6-8 Theme:
"My Voice in America's Democracy?"
Grades 9-12 Theme:
"Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"

Freedoms Foundation – Youth Essay Contest

(Due to Mr. Wagner electronically by March 1, 2025)
Grades K-6 Topic:
"Who is your favorite founding father/mother and why?"
Grades 7-12 Topic:
"There was much debate at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 leading to significant compromises reflected in the ratified US Constitution. Reflecting on all the ideas brought forth and the compromises made, what do you believe should have been included, that was not, and why?"

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY:

"The world henceforth will be run by synthesizers, people able to put together the right information at the right time, think critically about it, and make important choices wisely."

~ E.O. Wilson, American Biologist,
Pulitzer Prize Winner and Professor Emeritus Harvard

National History Day is a year-long program that helps student develop the following critical skills and abilities for their future:

- Critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Research and reading skills
- Oral and written communication and presentation skills
- Self-esteem and confidence
- A sense of responsibility for and involvement in the democratic process

Each year, thousands of middle and high school students (grades 6-12) and teachers across the United States participate in National History Day, a year-long educational program that culminates in a national contest every June. Students prepare original projects using primary sources and compete in a local contest. The winners move on to district and state competitions. Those winners move on to the national competition in Washington. Along the way, every participant gains first-hand experience conducting historical research and analysis and by producing a documentary, exhibit, essay, performance, or website. Through this journey of exploration students learn to synthesize information and develop balanced conclusions based on their findings.

The 2024 NHD theme is:

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN HISTORY