

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This year students will be participating in a school History Day event. This event is part of a broader program known as National History Day. History Day is an exciting program that encourages young people to explore a historical subject related to an annual theme. The theme this year is **“Communication in History: The Key to Understanding.”** Students will research this topic and then develop imaginative exhibits, performances, historical papers and documentaries.

When students participate in History Day, they develop research, analytical and presentation skills that will help them throughout their academic careers and their lives. Participation in History Day has also been shown to improve attendance rates.

Our school’s History Day event will be held on \_\_\_\_\_ . Students will set up displays and then have them judged. The judging will conclude approximately at \_\_\_\_\_. Students need to be present to answer judges’ questions and present documentaries and performances, and will need to find their own transportation home.

The event will be open to the community on \_\_\_\_\_ , from \_\_\_\_\_ until \_\_\_\_\_ to encourage everyone to attend this evening session. Entries from each category will be chosen to participate in the district event in \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

A great resource for History Day projects is the National History Day in Ohio website at [www.ohiohistory.org/historyday](http://www.ohiohistory.org/historyday). There are areas of the website designed to help students and to provide helpful information for parents. Students should be sure to consult the Contest Rule Book online. Students participating in History Day are encouraged to research their topics in their local public libraries, local historical organizations, and universities. A valuable resource, especially for students doing Ohio topics, is the Ohio Historical Society. Visit [www.ohiohistory.org](http://www.ohiohistory.org) to search the Society’s Archives/Library Online Collection Catalog or find out about their network of sites. Students are also encouraged to use oral history interviews, interviews with experts, family letters and photos, and local business records.

Sincerely,