

Dear Parent or Guardian of an Ohio History Day Student –

This year, your child will be participating in an exciting program called National History Day. This program is hosted by the Ohio History Connection and engages more than 10,000 students throughout the state. We want to introduce you to general structure of the program, and give you some ideas about how best to support your child.

History Day students select a topic connected to an annual theme. This year, the annual theme is *"Debate & Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences."* For this theme, students will pick any historical person or event that explores issues of navigating different points of view throughout history.

After selecting a topic, your child will research this topic, looking for information in a variety of books, encyclopedias, or trustworthy websites. Students are encouraged to look at historical materials, like photographs, letters, diaries, newspaper articles, or interviews as they research their topic. To share their findings, History Day students can create a museum-style exhibit, media documentary, website, live performance, or research paper.

Once a student has finished the project, they have the option to enter a series of competitive events. Students can advance from a school-level competition to Regional, State, and National contests. At these events, students present their projects and are interviewed by judges. Parents and families are welcome to attend!

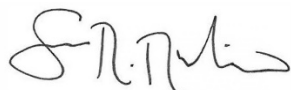
History Day is more than just a class project. Participants learn skills that will be valuable in high school, college, and beyond. We asked the parents of students at Regional contests about the impact History Day has on their child and they said:

- 89% said History Day made their child more ready for college
- 94% reported their child learned more through History Day, compared to other classroom assignments

Parents and guardians play an important role in supporting History Day students. Parents can provide transportation or help students get to places to research, like public libraries. Adults should also encourage students to remember all the skills they have learned by participating in History Day, rather than just focusing on the competition.

This is just the basic outline for the program. To learn more about History Day, you can visit our website, ohiohistoryday.org. Be sure to talk to your child's teacher to find out more about the deadlines and requirements in his or her classroom. Thanks for all you do to support your child's participation in History Day!

Sincerely,



Samantha Rubino
State Coordinator, Ohio History Day