

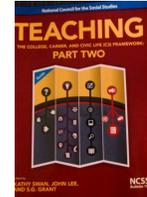
The POINT!



E-Letter of the Western Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies
Vol. 11 No. 7
July 2018

NCSS Bulletin Released

NCSS is proud to announce the release of its newest bulletin, "Teaching the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework: Part Two." See the latest IDM topics covered in this companion volume to "Teaching the C3 Framework." ([Read more](#))



Free! Resource from Tanenbaum

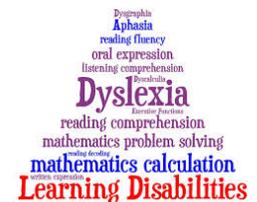
Get your copy of this FREE religious studies resource available from Tanenbaum and made possible by The Sy Syms Foundation. Aligned with the National Curriculum Standard for Social Studies, *Religions in My Neighborhood* helps teachers instruct students about different religions and respecting others' religious beliefs with lesson plans and extension activities for different types of learners. Hard copies available for first 100 people! ([Read More](#))



Report: All students learn differently

(Pixabay)

Educators must account for "learner variability" among students, according to a report published by the nonprofit Digital Promise, an organization that offers free, open-sourced materials through its Learner Positioning System. LPS helps educators tailor lessons to students' individual needs by suggesting adaptations, including new classroom arrangements and different ways for students to show what they have learned. [T.H.E. Journal](#) (6/27)



Local Students Win Awards in National Competition

Three local projects from the **National History Day** competition held at the History Center in March won awards at the national level. Special congratulations to the following groups:

- **3rd Place Junior Group Exhibit:** Sophia Wilson, Robyn Strazisar, and Amelia DAddieco from Peters Township Middle School in McMurray, Pa. for their project "Frick's Inability to Compromise: The Homestead Strike of 1892."
- **George Washington Leadership in History Award:** Ethan Schroeder from St. Joseph's in Tarentum, Pa. for "Liquor, Land, Liberty and Law: How Money, Mountains and Moonshine Sparked Conflict and Forced Compromise in the Whiskey Rebellion," sponsored by George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, Museum, & Gardens.
- **Outstanding Entry for Pennsylvania in the Junior Division:** Roshni Thakkar of Sewickley Academy for "Nelson Mandela: A Conflicting Journey to Justice."



IN PROMOTING OUR MISSION TO FOCUS ON LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY, WPCSS ANNUALLY PRESENTS TWO \$100 SAVINGS BONDS FOR THE BEST LOCAL OR FAMILY HISTORY EXHIBIT IN BOTH JUNIOR AND SENIOR ENTRIES OF THE LOCAL NATIONAL HISTORY DAY COMPETITION AT THE HEINZ HISTORY CENTER

Soldiers & Sailors Hall!

Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum houses a vast collection of primary and secondary documents and military artifacts. It is their mission to promote the use of these educational items and create an understanding for all groups who visit the museum. They provide a rich learning experience for all people by exploring the deeds and sacrifices of ordinary citizens during extraordinary circumstances.

The Education Dept. 412.621.4253 Tim Neff x 219
<http://www.soldiersandsailorshall.org/education.html>



WWII History & Reading Camp

- See Page 8 -

Heinz History Center

Museums in the Classroom: Teacher Institute for New and Pre-Service Teachers

Date: Thursday, July 26 (Part 1) **Time:** 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. **Act 48 Hours:** 5
Cost: FREE, including continental breakfast and lunch, thanks to the support of the Kettering Foundation.

Audience: Educators in their first two years of teaching, or pre-service educators
 Museum educators will lead based on object-based learning, inquiry, and deliberation through primary sources, demonstrate multidisciplinary activities in the museum's exhibits, and provide details about outreach opportunities.

The second installment of this institute will take place in December, with a third component to follow in the spring in the form of a survey.

A \$10 registration fee applies for all participants for this first installment, which will be refunded after attendance. Register: [Click Here to Register](#)

Archaeology with Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village

Location: Heinz History Center **Date:** Tuesday, July 10 **Time:** 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Cost: \$20 for History Center members and \$25 for non-members to attend.
 Additional \$3 fee applies to receive Act 48 hours. Cost includes coffee and a boxed lunch. **Audience:** Suitable for all educators.

Learn how to use archaeology to engage your students in the study of history in this summer Act 48 program, delivered by education staff from Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village.

Incorporating mock digs, demonstrations of archaeological techniques, and Meadowcroft's Gigapan resources and curriculum, this program will leave teachers with tips and ideas for incorporating archaeology into their classroom lessons.

Teaching American History Seminar: The Executive Branch

Location: Heinz History Center **Date:** Friday, Aug. 10 **Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Act 48 Hours: 5 hours **Cost:** Free

TeachingAmericanHistory.org is a project of the Ashbrook Center at Ashland University.

This seminar, will examine the sources of this controversial exercise of power in domestic and foreign affairs, looking at the debates over the constitutionality of the President's use of executive power in the twentieth and twenty-first century. Finally, it will consider whether the current use of executive power is desirable under our system of three equal branches of government.



The Point

Western Pennsylvania Council for the

Social Studies

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learning of social studies in Western

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Changes coming to AP World History course

The College Board is planning to limit the scope of its Advanced Placement World History course by starting with events in 1450. Under the change, earlier time periods would not be included in the AP exam, a move that has drawn criticism from many teachers who say this is creating a lopsided view of history.

[Politico](#) (6/11) **SEE PAGE**

Four Things to Know About Trump's Plan to Merge Education, Labor Departments

How would the plan actually work? What do educators have to say about it? What's the Trump administration's rationale for this? And will it actually happen?

[Read more.](#)

- [Trump Officially Proposes Merging U.S. Departments of Education, Labor](#)

Analysis | Why Republicans have long wanted to shut the Education Department

Now, in a government reorganization expected to be announced Thursday, the Trump administration will propose merging the Education and Labor departments, reflecting the president's push to shrink the federal government as well as the Republican view that education policy should be left to the states. The proposal would underscore the belief held by Trump and DeVos that the first purpose of education is to create skilled workers for America's workforce.

DeVos praises Swiss apprenticeship programs

The US should consider adopting Switzerland's approach to apprenticeships, US Education Secretary Betsy DeVos said during a speech this week in Switzerland. DeVos said that more than two-thirds of Swiss students participate in apprenticeship programs.

[Education Week \(tiered subscription model\)](#) (6/7), [The Washington Post \(tiered subscription model\)](#) (6/7)

Ind. districts focus on work-based learning

A coalition of seven school districts in Indiana plans to adopt a work-based approach to learning that will allow students to gain firsthand work experience. The Coalition of Continuous Improvement School Districts makes use of a state law that allows students to waive certain course requirements, so they can get workplace experience instead. [Chalkbeat/Indiana](#) (6/25)

Students gain work experience in summer school

High-school students in 46 districts in Louisiana are attending career-focused classes over the summer. The program allows students to earn money, as well as school credits while working toward earning industry-recognized credentials in fields such as welding, culinary arts and computer programming. [The Advocate \(Baton Rouge, La.\)](#) (6/25)



There is nothing more dangerous than a government of the many controlled by the few. -Lawrence Lessig, professor and political activist (b. 3 Jun 1961)

[What an Infamous Jail Break Tells Us About Teaching Persistence](#)

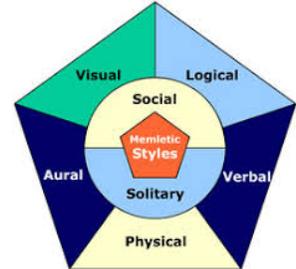
All students are capable of persistence, no matter how disengaged from academics they may seem, writes Steve Heisler. [Read more.](#)



[Should teachers adjust for learning styles?](#)

(Pixabay)

Support for embracing students' different learning styles may be unfounded, asserts Cindi May, a professor of psychology at the College of Charleston. Instead, she thinks educators should adopt evidence-based ways of learning that benefit most students. [Scientific American online](#) (5/29)



[Can a Civics Lesson Inspire Students to Become Active Citizens? \(Video\)](#)

How do members of a community affect change? What does it mean to be an active citizen? What actions you can take to change your world?



ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

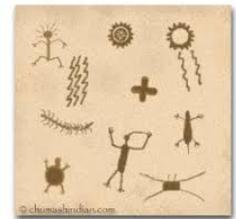
[Pa. may require students to take civics test](#)

A measure that soon could become law would require high-school students in Pennsylvania to take a civics test before they can graduate from high school, but they would not have to pass it. If the bill passes, the civics test requirement would take effect in the 2020-21 school year. [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (6/10)



[Students study Native American cultures with PBL](#)

Seventh-graders at a California school researched Native American tribes and created presentations about their cultures at a fair held in the school library. The program is part of a project-based learning unit that included finding experts to interview and making presentations at an event open to the public. [The Californian](#) (Salinas, Calif.) (tiered subscription model) (5/21)



[Students chat with Holocaust survivor's hologram](#)

Students in the Diversity Club at a Wisconsin high school recently visited the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie to learn about social justice and the notable contributions of lesser-known people who have addressed issues such as human trafficking and women's rights. The students also asked questions during an interactive chat with a 3D hologram of Holocaust survivor Fritzie Fritzshall. [La Crosse Tribune \(Wis.\)](#) (6/20)



[What do students think about Common Core?](#)

Students participating in a survey about the Common Core State Standards reveal some of its pros and cons. Some students reported not liking an emphasis on group work that they perceived as being connected to the Common Core. [Chalkbeat](#) (5/14)



A culture is made -- or destroyed -- by its articulate voices. Ayn Rand, philosopher

[How to involve more students in class discussions](#)

(Pixabay)

Bringing more students -- including those who may be reluctant -- into class discussions can help develop their communication and thinking skills, asserts educator Jori Krulder. In this blog post, she offers several tips for opening up classroom discussions to all students. [Edutopia online](#) (5/1)

[Museums Are Dabbling in Teacher Training, and the Results Are Promising](#)

A New York City effort aimed at preparing teachers to take learning outside the classroom and into the community may be leading to improvements in science achievement and teacher retention, according to some study results. [Read more.](#)

[Kan. high-schoolers shadow first responders](#)

(Michael Heiman/Getty Images)

High-school students in a Kansas district are learning about the duties of on-call first responders as part of a summer program. The students have met with and shadowed firefighters and learned about community leadership and service through the program, which offers half of a social studies credit to students who complete the program. [The Morning Sun \(Pittsburg, Kan.\)](#) (6/26)

[Year-end scavenger hunt teaches local history](#)

(Pixabay)

Four social studies teachers at a Maine school created a historical scavenger hunt to engage eighth-grade students at the end of the school year while teaching them local history. Students competed in teams to answer 20 questions about their town's history while taking a walking tour. [The Forecaster \(Falmouth, Maine\)](#) (6/23)

[Civics education gets a reboot in US schools](#)

The New York Times (tiered subscription model) (6/5)

MAMARONECK, N.Y. — It's just after 7 on a Thursday morning and Mamaroneck High School is empty — except for about 30 freshmen who are already seated in their classroom, laptops in front of them.

They are finishing the first year of a new initiative: a four-year program called Original Civic Research and Action, which requires them to immerse themselves in the workings of their town of Mamaroneck — just north of New York City — and find a useful solution to an ongoing problem.

[Supreme Court rules against unions' fee mandate](#)

The US Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. The US Supreme Court has issued a 5-4 decision stating that public-sector unions cannot contractually require nonunion employees to pay fees, a decision that could profoundly affect collective bargaining for teachers' unions. The majority held that mandating payments violates the First Amendment. American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten said unions "will continue fighting, caring, showing up, and voting, to make possible what is impossible for individuals acting alone."

[Education Week \(tiered subscription model\)](#) (6/27), [Politico](#) (6/27), [National Public Radio](#) (6/27), [The New York Times \(tiered subscription model\)](#) (6/27)



The 65th Annual Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies Conference

October 18—October 20, 2018
 Red Lion Hotel Harrisburg East
 4751 Lindle Road
 Harrisburg, PA 17111

Conference Theme: PCSS: *Where It All Comes Together*

Social studies are the axis around which all other subjects revolve; math, science, language arts, music, dance and visual arts. The incorporation of knowledge from all of these subjects in our society is what defines our history, our culture and our future. Social studies encourage students to utilize information and skills from a variety of content areas to formulate ideas and opinions, apply processes and express their conclusions, concerns and solutions.

For information, Contact:

Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies
<https://pcssonline.org/>

Inquiry Design Model: Building Inquiries in Social Studies

This new book from NCSS Publications is a comprehensive, in-depth guide for teachers who want to build classroom inquiries based on the College, Career and Civic Life Framework. Learn how to construct effective Inquiry Design Model blueprints that incorporate engaging questions, tasks and sources. [Learn more.](#)



Is There a Link Between Civics Requirements and Teacher Working Conditions?

States with policies that support rigorous civics education also tend to have better working conditions for social studies teachers, says **a report released Wednesday by the Brookings Institution**, a Washington think tank. The expansive report is the latest in what has been **a wave** of recent publications all **reaching the same conclusion**: Civics education needs a lot more attention, despite increased interest in practices like action civics.



States Should Make Sure Teachers Are 'Meaningfully Compensated,' Report Says

In recent months, **teachers have organized strikes and walkouts in Arizona, Colorado, Kentucky, Oklahoma, and West Virginia to protest low salaries**, reduced benefits, and insufficient school resources. The protests have led to some substantial increases in school funding and pension contributions, but it is the increases in teacher salaries that are catching the most public attention. The raises—some immediate, some in the works—started at 5 percent and may jump to as much as 20 percent.



To see ourselves as others see us is a most salutary gift. Hardly less important is the capacity to see others as they see themselves. Aldous Huxley, writer

WHY?

AP World History is one of the most popular courses offered by the US-based College Board. The AP World History exam was taken by 300,000 students last year. It is now a subject of growing controversy because the College Board has announced that the course will no longer start at 8,000 BCE, covering the whole of human history, but at 1450 CE. Yes, AP World will now include only 600 years of history. It's like trimming a French course to irregular verbs.

Is it a coincidence that the College Board wants to teach only the world dominated by Europe? Or that the change will eliminate the pesky problem of those millennia before the Biblical creation round about 4,000 BCE?

Please join the campaign by visiting the website [Save AP World](#). Sign the petition and write to the College Board - all the contact information is at the website.

CHECK THIS VIDEO

[William H. McNeill talks about the study of history and how he came to ...](#)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXkR6AyQRq>

[William H. McNeill talks about the study of history and how he came to ...](#)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Western Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

e-mail address _____

School or Institution _____

Position and Grade level _____

Dues: \$10.00 Amt. enclosed _____

Check made out to WPCSS

*** NOTE: Most communication will be handled by e-mail. Please include e-mail address in order to be informed of coming events. Also, check with your school tech director to see if the fire wall will allow you to receive *The Point*, usually about is size 10 mb. Some firewalls reject attachments over 2 mb.**

Send application and dues to:

Leo R. West Treasurer • 11533 Clematis Blvd. • Pittsburgh, PA 15235



SOLDIERS & SAILORS

MEMORIAL HALL & MUSEUM TRUST, INC.



WWII History & Reading Camp

August 6 - 10, 2018

Grades 5 - 8 (2017-2018 School Year)

Fun Activities

Students will engage in a variety of activities which will include, but are not limited to:

- *Interaction with WWII Veterans and re-enactors
- * Hands-on experience with artifacts
- * Tour of the museum's extensive exhibits
- * Daily sampling of WWII era foods



- * Listening to and singing songs from the era
- * Reading interesting stories and Primary Sources
- * Listening to WWII era stories, articles and poetry
- * Writing letters as a WWII soldier and/or recording experiences in a journal
- * Arts and crafts activities

Choose from FULL Day or HALF Day options!

Full-Day Option:

Tuition: \$200 per child

9am - 3pm

Daily lunch and afternoon snack is provided

Half-Day Option:

Tuition: \$100 per child

9am - 12pm

Daily lunch is provided

*Make sure to ask about tuition rates for additional children from the same family.
Register before May 30th to save \$15 off your tuition

For additional information call **Tim Neff** - 412-621-4253 x 219 or email tim@soldiersandsailorshall.org

WWW.SOLDIERSANDSAILORSHALL.ORG