



NATIONAL HISTORY DAY 2023
Frontiers in History:
PEOPLE, PLACES, IDEAS

Dear Parents,

We are embarking on an educational adventure with National History Day. National History Day is an academic competition on five levels: classroom, school, school district, state, and national. More than half a million students participate each year. In this exciting process, students capture the past and present it in the manner of a historian. Students begin by choosing a historical topic related to the annual theme. This year's National History Day theme is *FRONTIERS IN HISTORY: PEOPLE PLACES, IDEAS*. Once students choose a topic, they conduct primary and secondary research. They look through libraries, archives and museums, conduct oral history interviews, and visit historic sites. After they analyze and interpret sources and draw a conclusion about the significance of their topic, they then present their work as a National History Day project.

Over the next few months, your child's history teacher will facilitate each stage in the process. Teachers have broken down the project into small, easy-to-manage steps, including a pacing guide. The steps are organized in modules on Blackboard, where students can find multiple resources, tutorials, examples, and directions to support their needs. Guided instruction in class, the Blackboard modules, and on-going support will help your student complete this invaluable learning project. Students have the option to submit work throughout the process to obtain feedback from me on Blackboard. These submissions ensure students are on the right track and allow me to address questions or concerns.

Some students receive a grade for their National History Day project and may be chosen to participate in Pine View School's History Day. At that time, the students' projects are evaluated. First and second place winners from Pine View School's History Day represent our school at Sarasota County History Day, and these students are interviewed by teachers, historians, and members of the community. The winners from the district history day will compete in Tallahassee at Florida History Day. Winners selected at the state level are given the opportunity to represent Florida at National History Day at the University of Maryland College Park in June.

We invite you to embark on this adventure with us. Accompanying this letter, you will find a list titled, *How Parents Can Assist Students Participating in National History Day*. We feel your involvement with this project can be as meaningful for you, as it will be for the students. Although this project must be the students' original work, they benefit from assistance at both school and home. We would like to emphasize that this project is not meant to be completed by parents and the students' original work is what is expected. While my expectations will challenge students, the parameters are not unrealistic. This is an international, researched-based learning experience and it is a process. Hard work, commitment, and academic integrity are core values in education, and it will serve your student for the rest of their lives. We care about your student's learning and want to do my very best to provide the best education for each of them.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate your child's history teacher.

Sincerely,

Pine View History Teacher

How Parents Can Assist Students Participating in National History Day

1. Help your child stay on task by occasionally asking to see their work in conjunction with the History Day Timeline and checklists.
2. Read the rubrics and guidelines for quality work specific to your child's project.
3. Assist students with transportation to teacher office hours, libraries, museums, and other places that provide information for students in their research efforts (if needed).
4. Provide space in your home for students to work. If your child is part of a group project, perhaps you and the other parents of students in the group could rotate using your homes to facilitate groups being able to work together afterschool.
5. Help supply materials needed for the project. If students work in a group, each set of the parents could supply one or two of the elements needed. For example, in constructing an exhibit, one student's parents could provide the exhibit board, another could secure the background material and border trim, and another could supply the paper and markers needed for displaying images and signs. *Please notify me if there are issues obtaining supplies.
6. Transport your child's project to the location of History Day.
7. Assist your child in finding primary and secondary sources for research, or resources for the project.
8. Emphasize that the presentation of oneself is as important as the presentation of one's product. Dressing and behaving appropriately at History Day demonstrates students' respect for their visitors and for the people who work hard to make the event possible for them.
9. Listen to ideas and give constructive feedback. The work must be the students, but they can benefit from parents helping them polish their work by letting students know if their writing and/or visual project clearly communicates their ideas.
10. Share your child's enthusiasm for producing work like a historian.