



The Power of  
Handwritten Notes

page 2

Civics Education  
Highlighted at League  
of Women Voters  
*Winterfeast*

page 6

Mock Trial, Model UN,  
and College Bowl  
Seasons Underway

page 7

# SOCIAL STUDIES



Meet Social Studies  
Student Teacher Mr.  
Gagnon

page 3

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Civics Bee  
to be held on March  
15<sup>th</sup>

page 4

6<sup>th</sup> graders Explore  
Ancient Civilizations  
Through Historical  
Artifacts

page 5

Course Selection for  
8<sup>th</sup> graders and High  
School Begins

page 8

Complete list of  
History Projects  
Advancing to the  
Northeast Regional  
District History Day  
Competition

page 9

## HWRHS and Miles River Students Participate in 2017 National History Day

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 students in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and 11<sup>th</sup> grade US and World History classes exhibited their historical research at the HWRHS annual History Fair showcase. Teachers Kristen Borges, Vinnie Bucci, Brett Burnett, Rob Emmett and Johann Knets worked with students since September by helping them focus their research, develop historical arguments and connect to this year's National History Day theme *Taking a Stand in History*.

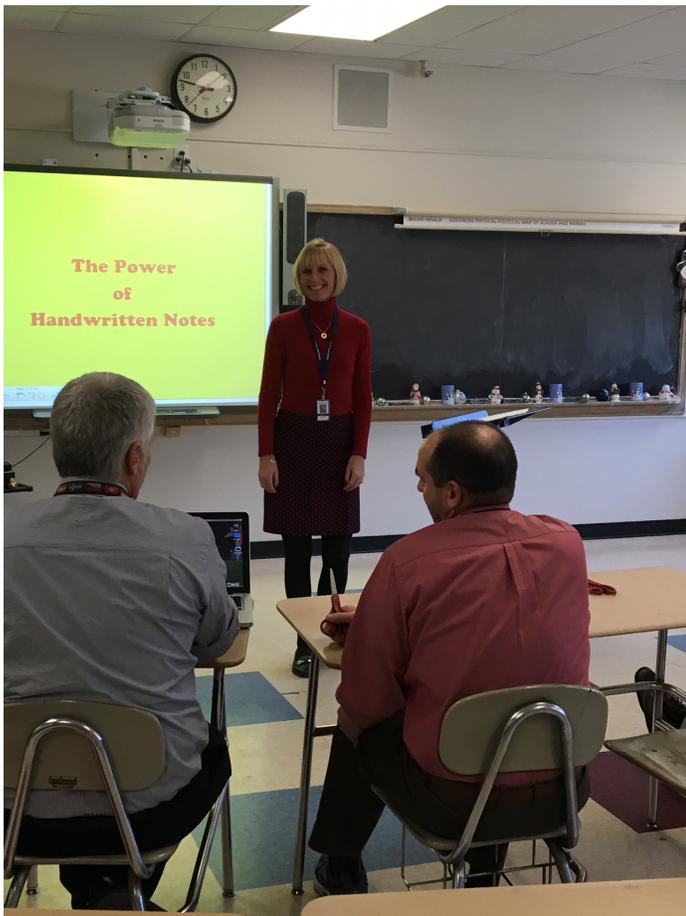
At the Miles River Middle School, teacher Tyler Walker has also been working with students on historical research that will result in National

History Day projects. Students present their research in the form of a documentary, exhibit, performance, website, or research paper.

These projects are the result of extensive research and historical source analysis. Students developed arguments about their topics and presented those arguments to a team of judges. The Social Studies department wishes to thank the many judges from the community who helped out that evening. The top projects in each category were chosen to represent the HWRSD at the upcoming district competition to be held on March 4<sup>th</sup> at Beverly High School. Students will compete against area schools in order to qualify for the Massachusetts state competition.



# An HWRSD Edcamp Highlight: The Power of Handwritten Notes



Ms. Maney at her EdCamp session.

On December 14th, Psychology teacher, Lori Maney, shared her research on note taking at the district's EdCamp. EdCamp is a participant-driven professional learning experience, where "teachers teach teachers". Ms. Maney's presentation was entitled, "The Power of Handwritten Notes". Ms. Maney has seen the effectiveness of her students taking handwritten notes instead of typing their notes in her AP Psychology classes. Ms. Maney first learned about this research from a colleague while attending an Advanced Placement Psychology summer institute.

According to recent studies, when students type their notes they tend to copy down what they hear verbatim, without engaging in the deeper processing required for conceptual learning. On subsequent tests, students who had taken notes by hand outperformed those who used computers. Researchers at the University of Princeton and the University of California concluded taking notes by hand helps students "synthesize material, draw inferences, see new connections, and evaluate evidence more effectively".<sup>1</sup> Thus students had a stronger conceptual understanding and were more successful in applying and integrating the material than those who typed their notes.

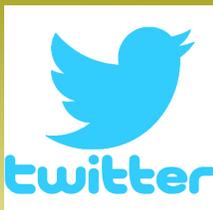
Even though HWRHS is a 1:1 school, there is still a place for a student's device. Once the students handwrite their notes, they have an opportunity to organize them digitally. After taking notes by hand, many students then type their

handwritten notes rather than take a photo. Ms. Maney says this is an opportunity for students to apply one of the AP Psychology terms they are learning in her class. "When students retype or rewrite information, it is a form of *rehearsal* in educational psychology. *Rehearsal* is when a student consciously repeats the information over and over again in order to encode it into long-term memory storage." Much of the AP Psychology curriculum requires students to learn discipline specific vocabulary. Ms. Maney's students have had success retaining these vocabulary terms, which in turn has helped them build the necessary language to master the curriculum. MRMS and HWRHS faculty who attended Ms. Maney's EdCamp session agreed there is power in taking handwritten notes and decided to try it in their own classes.

handwritten notes rather than take a photo. Ms. Maney says this is an opportunity for students to apply one of the AP Psychology terms they are learning in her class. "When students retype or

1. May, Cindi. "A Learning Secret: Don't Take Notes with a Laptop." Scientific American. June 02, 2014. Accessed January 12, 2017.

## Check Out Some Of Our Favorite History Twitter Accounts...



MA History Day @MAhistoryday  
 Smithsonian @smithsonian  
 Facing History @facinghistory  
 History News Network @myHNN  
 MA Historical Society @MHS1791  
 Mass Humanities @MassHumanities  
 Generation Citizen @gencitizen

US National Archives @USNatArchives  
 The History List @TheHistoryList  
 National Museum of American History @amhistorymuseum  
 Old South Meeting House @OSMHBoston  
 Library of Congress @librarycongress  
 The Digital Public Library of America @dpla  
 New York Public Library Archives @nypl

# Meet High School Social Studies Department's Student Teacher: Dan Gagnon

Students in Johann Knets' classes have a new teacher in the room. Gordon College's Dan Gagnon is working with Mr. Knets this semester as a social studies student teacher. The student teaching practicum is a 12-week long experience where student teachers work closely with an experienced teacher and participate in curriculum development, planning, instruction, and assessment. Mr. Gagnon began his practicum with Mr. Knets the beginning of January and will be with our department until the end of March.

Mr. Gagnon is from Danvers, MA and brings very unique experiences in history to his teaching. As an undergraduate at Providence College he majored in History and French. As a junior, he spent a year studying abroad in Rome. Since graduation he has been working in the Boston College Classroom Technology office and is enrolled in International and Global History classes at Boston College and Gordon College. For the past 8 years, Mr. Gagnon has worked at the Rebecca Nurse Homestead, a living history museum in Danvers at the former home of Rebecca Nurse who was a victim of the 1692 Salem Witch Trials.

Mr. Knets and Mr. Gagnon have been closely working

together to create meaningful experiences for both the students and Mr. Gagnon. During his first few weeks, Mr. Gagnon spent his days observing many teachers from multiple departments. Each day he and Mr. Knets can be seen collaborating over



selection of historical sources, instructional strategies, learning activities, and planning for when Mr. Gagnon assumes responsibility of Mr. Knets' classes. Each Wednesday Mr. Gagnon can also be found participating in the department's professional development meetings.

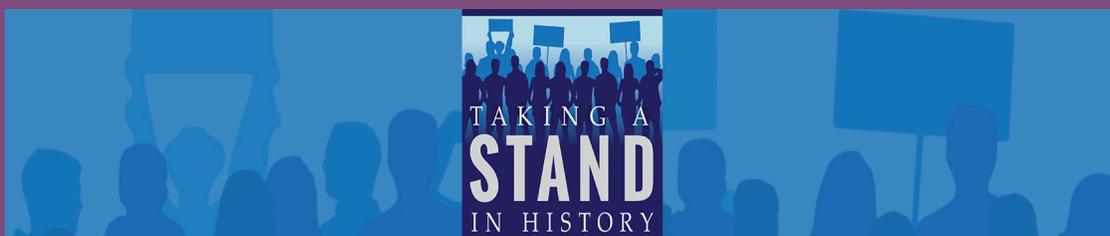
Mr. Gagnon said "I am excited to be teaching in Hamilton-Wenham and have been impressed by the academic level of the students and the community of teachers". He looks forward to working with the students and the rest of the social studies department members as well.

**NHD**  
**NATIONAL**  
**HISTORY DAY**

See HWRHS and MRMS students compete at the Northeast Regional District History Day Competition:



Beverly High School  
 Saturday March 4, 2017  
 8:30 am – 3:00 pm



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Civics Bee to be held at Miles River Middle School on March 15th



MC Mr. Ristaino at the 2016 Civics Bee

The League of Women Voters of Hamilton-Wenham will sponsor its second annual Civics bee on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Miles River Middle School. This program is part of an ongoing initiative to drive civic engagement across the community and is supported in part by the Salem Five Charitable Foundation a grant from the Hamilton-Wenham Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Last year's event drew an overflow crowd of students, teachers, and community members. The 2016 champions the *Volleyball Girlies* will return to defend their title. This year's event will again feature 30 inter-generational teams of 4, answering rounds of trivia-style questions about citizenship, founding documents, and local, state, and national government. Three top scoring teams will compete in a championship round for prizes and bragging rights until next year's event. The Miles River Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> graders will provide refreshments as a fundraiser for their class trip to Washington, DC this spring. Social Studies Department faculty member Nick Ristaino has again agreed to be the evening's host. The League is also working on some surprise guests in person and by video. For more information about registration and organizing a team, please contact MJ Brown at [hwcivicsbee@gmail.com](mailto:hwcivicsbee@gmail.com).

### Civics Bee FAQs

#### What is a Civics Bee?

A friendly trivia-style competition where the questions are all about civics: local, state, and federal government, the US Constitution, voting rights, etc.

#### Are there prizes?

Of course! Teams will compete for prizes that include gift certificates to local businesses. Last year's prize donors included Winfrey's, Daniella's, Panini Pizzeria, Hamilton House of Pizza, Henderson's Cafe, Grassy Roots, Wenham Tea House, The Weathervane Tavern, 15 Walnut, Marybeth's, Tencercrop, and Green Meadows Farm. Plus all players receive a Civics Bee souvenir and the winning team name (make it a good one!) gets added to the trophy!

#### Who can enter?

Anyone from 8th graders through adults can enter a team. Teams have four players and must have at least one student AND one adult.

#### Will there be food?

Yes! Candy and yummy baked goods will be provided by the 8th grade as a fundraiser for their DC trip this spring.

#### How do I sign up?

Online registration opens in February. Stay tuned for a URL. Contact [HWCivicsBee@gmail.com](mailto:HWCivicsBee@gmail.com) with any questions. First 5 teams to sign up will be entered in a drawing for personalized team t-shirts!

#### What if I don't have a team?

We have individuals who want to enter and are looking for a team. Contact [HWCivicsBee@gmail.com](mailto:HWCivicsBee@gmail.com) and we'll do our best to find you a team!

#### What if my team needs an adult? (Or a student?)

Ask a teacher, coach, neighbor, parent, or grandparent. (Neighbor's kid, your kid, etc.) This is a community-wide event! If you are stuck, let us know and we will do our best to match you with a player looking for a team. Contact us at [hwcivicsbee@gmail.com](mailto:hwcivicsbee@gmail.com)



2016 Civics Bee Champions the Volleyball Girlies



2016 Civics Bee panel of judges: HWRSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Harvey, Mrs. Joanne Patton, and MA State Representative Brad Hill

# 6<sup>th</sup> graders Explore Ancient Civilizations Through Artifacts

Sixth grade students in Jen Marsh and Anne Matthews' classes wrapped up their historical study of Ancient Mesopotamia, "the cradle of civilization" at the end of November. In collaborative workspaces, students launched their inquiry into the key aspects of the first civilization using the same methods and skills as professional historians and archaeologists. Teams of students brainstormed the inquiry-based question: "What does it mean to be civilized?" Once they established common criteria, the teams of students examined artifacts from Ancient Sumer in order to better understand the Sumerians' lasting influence on human societies. In December, the students explored Ancient Egypt, using their newly honed skills. Students closely analyzed environmental and physical features of the early settlements of Egypt, Kush, and Canaan.

The students took notes, sketched various aspects of daily life in Ancient Egypt, and researched the

different artifacts in order to reveal the history of the time.

Over the next few weeks, students independently continued their research and built models of their findings. Their finished projects were presented in a classroom "museum style" installation. Some of the artifacts on display were pyramids, jewelry, masks, royal cartouches, sarcophaguses, boats, and canopic jars (jars used for the safekeeping of human organs, all of which, it was believed, would be needed in the afterlife).

Students shared their projects first with their classmates and then had the opportunity to participate in a public viewing of all classes' projects. Students visited their peer's displays and provided personalized feedback throughout the "Ancient Egypt Classroom Museum Day".



6<sup>th</sup> grade  
Ancient  
Egypt  
Classroom  
Museum

## The League of Women Voters Annual *Winterfeast*: An Evening Focused on Civic Education

On January 27, 2017 the Hamilton-Wenham League of Women Voters held their annual *Winterfeast* at Burnham Hall in the Wenham Museum. Each year members of the LOW and community members gather for dinner, conversation, and a keynote presentation centered on a current issue. This year the focus was the “State of Civic Education in Our Schools”. Social Studies 6-12 Curriculum Leader Kristen Borges was the keynote speaker. In her talk, she highlighted the many ways civics is key to the social studies curriculum in the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District. Many of the attendees had questions about the type of civics education students experience today.



Ms. Borges shared the districts PK – 12 Social Studies Transfer Goals that define what students should know and be able to do in order to “transfer” or apply the knowledge and skills they learned as students in the HWRSD. Those goals are: Engage as a Global Citizen, Analyze Sources, Recognize Patterns, Apply Multiple Perspectives, and Create Informed Judgments. These goals target the skills necessary to participate as active citizens.

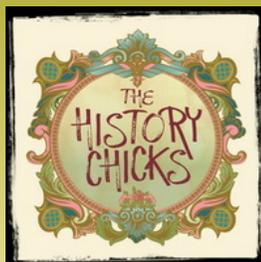


Ms. Borges also highlighted how specific courses offered by the HWRSD Social Studies department incorporate civics. Over the past decade, social studies education has shifted from a traditional civics education approach where students

learn by rote about government functions toward an inquiry-based approach where students connect their learning to civic action and engagement. Finally, Ms. Borges focused on the many opportunities students have available to them that focus on civics. Some of these opportunities include the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Close-up trip to Washington, DC to the extracurricular activities such as Student Government, Model UN, and Mock Trial.



Looking for a good History Podcast? Here are some we are currently listening to...



# Mock Trial, Model UN, and College Bowl Seasons Underway

The Mock Trial, Model UN, and College Bowl clubs are well underway with their seasons. Students participate in these extra-curricular activities that are all advised by members of the Social Studies Department.

The Mock Trial team has been preparing for their season since September. Sponsored by the



Massachusetts Bar Association, the Mock Trial program places students in a simulated courtroom to assume the roles of lawyers and witnesses in a hypothetical case. Social Studies teacher Rob Emmett advises the team with the assistance of Suffolk University Law Professor and attorney Chris Dearborn. All mock trials were held in a real courtroom at the Salem District Court.

This year's case is an intriguing first-degree murder case where a war veteran with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) shot and killed a former classmate at a 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks celebration. The defendant claims that his PTSD left him with diminished capacity so he should be not guilty by reason of insanity or at the very least have the charges reduced. Students represent both the defendant's team and the prosecution depending upon the match. The HWRHS students compete against Mock



Sabine Ryan debates about atomic energy at MIT MUN conference

Trial teams from area schools including Lynnfield, Danvers, and Marblehead High Schools.

The Model United Nations Club co-advised by Social Studies teachers Kristen Borges and Anne Page have also been very busy this season. Model UN is another simulated activity where students act as delegates to the United Nations and debate on UN committees. The aim is to pass resolutions that will help solve some of the world's most pressing issues. This year's first conference was at St. John's Prep where students debated about the rights of refugees, arms trafficking, and water rights.

At the MIT conference, students tackled pressing issues such as the Arab-Israeli conflict, sweat shops in developing nations, and the situation in Kashmir. At this conference, Maggie Perrotta who represented Nicaragua on the UN Economic and Social Council was awarded Best Position Paper.

The College Bowl team has also been very busy this season. The team meets after school each Monday. Led by co-advisors Vinnie Bucci and Anne Page, this year's interest has been high. Students compete in categories such as math, literature, history, science, geography and modern pop culture. Each month, the team travels to St. John's Prep to compete against other high school teams from the Greater Boston area. The season will culminate with a final playoff match in April. The team's 2017 goal is to top last year's second place finish in the ten-team league.



Vinnie Bucci leads a College Bowl practice

# Course Selection for 8<sup>th</sup> grade and High School Begins

The Social Studies/History Department helps students develop the knowledge and skills needed to better understand the political, economic, and social patterns that have shaped different cultures and eras. Each course offered engages students in critical thinking, decision-making, inquiry, and collaborative learning. By closely examining historical perspectives and social science concepts, students develop the necessary knowledge and skills needed in order to be active, responsible, and informed citizens. Students are challenged to communicate effectively through writing, discussion, and debate. Each semester the Social Studies/History Department offers a variety of electives that allow students to explore topics of interest to them.

## Requirements

1. Students are required to complete three (3) credits in Social Studies/History.
2. All students are required to take World History during their freshman year, US & World History I (1700-1900) during their sophomore year, and US & World History II (1870-Present) or Humanities: America and the World during their junior year. Each course is equal to one (1) credit. Students may take these courses at the Honors or College Prep level.
3. Any student who fails either a semester of 9, 10, or 11<sup>th</sup> grade History must either make up the course in summer school or take that course the following year.
4. Electives **may not** replace required courses. Students are encouraged to take electives if their interest and schedule permits.

GRADE	CP	H	AP	Electives
Grade 9	World History CP	World History H	N/A	N/A
Grade 10	US & World Hist. 1 CP	US & World Hist. 1 H	N/A	Facing History & Ourselves Through World Affairs CP/H Law and Society CP/H Contemporary History CP/H
Grade 11	US & World Hist. 2 CP Humanities America and the World CP	US & World Hist. 2 H Humanities America and the World H	AP Economics AP Psychology	Psychology CP Facing History & Ourselves Through World Affairs CP/H Law and Society CP/H Contemporary History CP/H
Grade 12	N/A	N/A	AP US History AP Economics AP Psychology	Psychology CP Facing History & Ourselves Through World Affairs CP/H Law and Society CP/H Contemporary History CP/H

## Course Selection Timeline

Course selection/elective day- March 1

Aspen portal opens for students to select electives- March 2

Aspen portal closes- March 10

Counselors review course selections with all students- March 13 through March 22

Course verification sheets printed- March 23

Course verification sheets distributed to students- March 24

Course verification returned with parent signature- March 29

# History Projects Advancing to Northeast History Day District Competition

## HIGH SCHOOL PROJECTS

### GROUP DOCUMENTARIES

- *Hair the Musical* - Jacqueline Fibbe & Maggie Perrotta
- *Mikhail Gorbachev: Taking a Stand for Peace and Democracy* - Sean Li, Jack McMahon, Ian Park & Henry Smith
- *Muhammad Ali* - Zane Clark, Cam Lake, Ben Meahl, Dan Tobin & Nate Watkins

### INDIVIDUAL DOCUMENTARIES

- *The Dutch Resistance of World War II* - Susanna Martinez
- *Haile Selassie* - Dennis van Maaren

### GROUP EXHIBITS

- *Earth Day: Taking a Stand for the Environment* - Chloe Beliveau, Abbey Coughlin, Haley Rivers & Emily Vanderwilden
- *Loving Beyond All Odds: The Case that Took a Stand Against Anti-miscegenation* - Grace Moroney & Grace Tymann
- *The Pentagon Papers* - Anna Cassidento, Ailis Heard-Burns, Cate Pasquarello & Charlotte Rubel
- *Theodore Roosevelt: Taking a Stand Against Trusts* - Jay Kum, Griffin Penn & Spencer Poore
- *William Wilberforce: A Pioneer for the Stand Against the Slave Trade* - John Farnham, Cameron Grinnell, Grace MacCurrach & Alex Renaud
- *White Rose: A Call to German Action Against Nazi Government* - Elizabeth Gasiorowski, Michelle Morency & Lily Ting

### INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITS

- *The Pullman Strike* - Cole Dwyer

### HISTORICAL PAPERS

- *Louisa May Alcott* - Luce Brandt

### PERFORMANCES

- *A Women's Stand for Gender Equality after World War II* - Will Glovsky & Bryn Smith
- *Carole King, Joni Mitchell and Carly Simon: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wave Feminism in the Music Industry of the 1960's* - Emily Benack, Olivia Brown & Lia Whitman

### GROUP WEBSITES

- *Alice Paul* - Emily Minster & Julia Sauriol.
- *Cuban Revolution* - William Curtis, Lillian Dixon, Nicholas Oo & Parker Tocci
- *Griswold v. Connecticut* - Lauren Flynn, Katie Hankin & Cecily Szady

### INDIVIDUAL WEBSITES

- *Great Sioux War of 1876: Taking a Stand for a Way of Life* - Hollis Mann
- *Jonathan Mann: Taking a Stand for Human Rights in the Fight Against AIDS* - Lily Knudsen
- *Jesse Owens and the 1936 Olympics* - Andrew Riccio

## MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT

### GROUP DOCUMENTARY

- *Galileo: Standing for Science, Standing up to the Church* - Charlene Fibbe & Grant London