Dear Parents,

It is time to begin our National History Day papers and projects. National History Day (NHD) is a project based curriculum that includes a competition on four levels: school, county, state, and national. This year’s theme is *Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History*. As high schools and colleges focus on research and writing, we want to prepare our students for the demands placed upon them. This paper and project will be guided by myself and has been broken down into small easy-to-manage steps and due dates. Both ELA and Social Studies will be working together to complete these projects.

For seventh grade honors students, an entry at the school level is required. Many of the entries will compete in the county contest. Participation in the project is a big commitment of time. The grade received on the project will be part of the students’ third and fourth quarter grades. There are many benefits to NHD. Our objectives for incorporating NHD as a classroom assignment are:

* To provide students with an innovative learning tool
* To provide an outcome-based learning activity
* To encourage the study of history using creative expression in a variety of ways
* To develop research and reading skills and refine presentation skills
* To develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills
* To encourage a sense of history as a process
* To involve parents and other members of the community in students’ education

Students will be allowed to choose their groups this week (a maximum of 5 students per group). Students will also be given the option to work individually. The group needs to select a topic that focuses on this year’s theme. Students will each find a minimum of 10 sources for their paper. These sources will be used to create an annotated bibliography, which will be the basis for their research paper. The research paper portion of the project is a requirement of (insert school name). **Even if a student is working in a group, each student must submit their own research paper completed individually.**

Students and parents should understand that group collaboration must take place outside of school and that it is their responsibility to get to the library and to other group members homes. Minimal class time will be given for collaboration. It is important for each student to have a flash drive in order to save information. Students must bring these to school on the days we go to the computer labs.

**Tentative Due Dates: What is due? • When is it due? • Turn it in to**

* Topic and group members • October 16, 2015 • Social Studies
* Copy of Annotated Bibliography 10 sources (typed) • October 30, 2015 • ELA
* Typed Outline & Thesis • November 6, 2015 • ELA
* NHD Project Category Type • November 20, 2015 • Social Studies
* Typed rough draft of paper • November 18, 2015 • ELA
* Final copy of paper • December 8, 2015 • ELA
* Final project due January 20, 2015 Social Studies

Guidelines for the project and contest rules can be found online.

* Sacramento History Day [www.sachistoryday.org](http://www.sachistoryday.org)
* National History Day California [www.nhdca.org](http://www.nhdca.org)

Students will not be receiving all the information at once. We will go slowly, step by step. Please email me if you have any questions along the way.

Sincerely,

(Insert name and contact information)

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Student Signature Parent Signature

Topic:

Group Members:

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