



January 2019

A monthly newsletter for social studies educators

## Updates from the Ohio Department of Education

### New social studies and science websites

Ohio's [social studies](#) and [science](#) websites have new designs.

### Change in transition and implementation of new standards for social studies and science

A change in the [timeline](#) for the implementation of the 2018 Ohio's Learning Standards for Social Studies will provide districts more time to align instruction and resources. The 2019-2020 school year will be the transition year for the revised standards. Implementation of the new standards and the adjusted state tests will be in the 2020-2021 school year. Approval for the revised model curricula for social studies, science and financial literacy is scheduled for April.

### Marginalization of Social Studies graphic

A [Marginalization of Social Studies graphic](#) provides support on the importance of teaching social studies, especially in the elementary grades. It is a product of the Social Studies Collaborative of which the Ohio Department of Education is a part.

## State organizations offering opportunities and resources

### Ohio Council for the Social Studies connects

The [Ohio Council for the Social Studies](#) serves as the premier voice for social studies professionals in Ohio. It advocates for the vital role of social studies and assists educators through professional development for the delivery of effective and innovative instruction. The council's conferences and publications provide a network of services to members throughout the state. It also is a great way to be a part of the social studies network in Ohio. The professional membership fee is \$30.

The Ohio Council for the Social Studies is part of the [National Council for the Social Studies](#). It, too, advocates strongly for the social studies profession by creating greater awareness of the importance of social studies education. Members receive a monthly periodical. Next year's conference will be in Austin, TX.

### The Ohio Center for Law-Related Education (OCLRE) offers opportunities to enhance citizenship education

- **Free professional development – Dive into the C3 Framework**  
Looking to learn more about the College, Career, and Civic Life Framework? On Jan. 4, OCLRE is holding the first in a series of four [professional development](#) sessions to introduce the framework and provide practical advice to implement inquiry in your classroom. The first two attendees from each organization/school are free.
- **Observe the *We the People* state competition**  
*We the People* teaches students about the history, philosophies, changes and application of the U.S. Constitution and other founding documents. OCLRE invites interested teachers to observe students in action and talk with experienced teachers about classroom implementation. The competition takes place Friday, Feb. 1 at the Ohio Statehouse. Contact Tim Kalgreen at [taklgreen@ocle.org](mailto:taklgreen@ocle.org) or (614) 485-3515 for more information.
- **Professional Development – Get rolling with Middle School Mock Trial**  
Join OCLRE on Feb. 7 for an introductory professional development to learn about the [Ohio Middle School Mock Trial](#). In addition to program basics such as organizing a team and trial sequence, teaching controversial topics in the classroom also will be discussed. Participants will leave with techniques for teaching controversial topics in an academic setting, as well as tips to provide students with context for better understanding.
- **Go behind the scenes of state government**  
Join OCLRE Feb. 19-20 for its popular conference, [Ohio Government in Action](#). Teachers will immerse themselves in state government by meeting with state leaders in Ohio's legislative, executive and judicial branches. There will be behind-the-scenes tours and perspectives, lesson sharing and networking with colleagues. [Register today](#).
- **Teaching the Ohio Constitution?**  
OCLRE has crafted an inquiry-based lesson to help teachers integrate teaching the Ohio Constitution into the classroom. Students will dive into citizens' powers under the Ohio and U.S. Constitutions and how government

and non-government factors can limit them using the compelling question, “Do citizens exercise meaningful influence over the government?” This inquiry was crafted as part of the 2019 Ohio Constitution Scholars question for the Ohio *We the People* state competition. Lessons are available to all teachers on the [Ohio Center for Law-Related Education website](#).

- **Recognizing students for civic education excellence**

Do you know a student who excels at civic education and is deserving of recognition? The [Civics & Law Honor Roll](#) recognizes secondary school students (grades 9-12) who demonstrate a commitment to civic learning and engagement. Students will be honored on the OCLRE website, in print and outside media outlets. Acknowledge a bright and engaged young Ohioan by nominating them for this honor.

- **AP government teachers: Still looking for activities to support the AP Government & Politics test redesign?**

[Moot Court](#) is a simulated Supreme Court hearing that challenges students to craft document-based legal arguments. Students will learn skills to help with their AP government test, including the SCOTUS Comparison Essay Question, and will focus on one of the required Supreme Court cases. The 2019 Ohio Moot Court case will be released mid-January. For information and resources, visit the [Moot Court](#) website or contact Tim Kalgreen at [tkalgreen@oclr.org](mailto:tkalgreen@oclr.org) or (614) 485-3515).

### **The Barker Center offers workshop on financial preparation for college**

The Barker Center for Economic Education at The University of Akron invites educators of grades 7-12 to a free workshop on “Financial Preparation & Pathways for College”. It will be held on March 16 from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Participants will hear from experienced financial advisors on strategies and tools that educators and students can use to eliminate and reduce student loan debt. The session will focus on financial fitness tools and strategies for college success. All educators completing the workshop will receive a small honorarium. [Registration details](#) are available.

### ***Other opportunities***

#### **National Geographic offers programs for teachers and students**

[GeoChallenge](#) is an annual themed and standards-based competition from the National Geographic Society that challenges student groups in grades five through eight across the United States to develop a creative solution to a real-world problem. Participants must register to receive the program materials. [Registration](#) is now live!

Students form teams—between four and six people—and respond to a problem, challenge, or critical issue by using research, collaboration, creativity, and communication to create and present real-world solutions, just like National Geographic Explorers. Teams with the best projects can advance to the regional and national levels. The deadline to register for the GeoChallenge and to submit a project is Jan. 15.

National Geographic also offers professional learning opportunities for educators, including [online courses](#).

#### **C-SPAN’s 2019 StudentCam competition is open**

[StudentCam](#) is C-SPAN’s annual national video documentary competition that encourages students to think critically about issues that affect our communities and our nation.

This year, students in grades 6-12 are asked to create a short (5-6 minute) video documentary on a topic related to the new 2019 competition theme, “What does it mean to be American?” Choose a constitutional right, national characteristic, or historic event and explain how it defines the American experience. With cash prizes totaling \$100,000, C-SPAN awards prizes to 150 student documentaries and more than 50 teacher advisors. Videos with entry forms must be submitted by Jan. 20.

#### **Geography Bee**

Each year, thousands of schools in the United States participate in the National Geographic Bee using materials prepared by the National Geographic Society. The contest is designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject and increase public awareness about geography. Schools with students in grades 4-8 are eligible for this entertaining and challenging test of geographic knowledge. Registration for the [Ohio’s GeoBee](#) is now open. Last day for registration is Jan. 25.

#### **Facing History and Ourselves offers upcoming professional development opportunities**

[Facing History and Ourselves](#) is offering a workshop on [Teaching a Facing History Elective Class](#), Jan. 16, from 4:30 p.m.-7 p.m. at Urban Community School in Cleveland. Please see the website for additional professional development in 2019. Scholarships are available for each offering. Register online or call (216) 321-9220.

[Collaborative Classroom](#) and [Facing History and Ourselves](#) are hosting “[Embrace, Education, and Empower](#),” a convening for district-level and building administrators in support of the revision of the K-12 Social and Emotional standards on Jan. 30 from 8-10:30 a.m. at the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County in Independence. The \$10 registration fee includes breakfast and materials.

### **The National History Bee**

National History Bee is a competition with several divisions. The [Middle and Elementary School History Bee](#) is a social studies competition for students in grades 4-8. It uses a fun and exciting format to test knowledge of a wide range of historical topics. The bee starts in the classroom. Sponsors can choose from a variety of optional classroom stage activities to determine which students will take the online exam. Activities include an Intramural Bee and the National History Bowl. The sign-up period for the National History Bee's Elementary and Middle School Divisions runs each year through around the end of January; on a case-by-case basis, students and schools may sometimes sign up later if space still is available for the Regional Finals in their regions.

The [Varsity and Junior Varsity History Bee](#) is a buzzer-based history quiz competition for individual students. Students compete against other students in a series of rounds where they attempt to be the first to ring in and answer paragraph-length questions about various topics in history. There are two divisions: Varsity for 11<sup>th</sup>- and 12<sup>th</sup>-graders and Junior Varsity for 10<sup>th</sup>-graders and younger.

### **We the Students - Bill of Rights Institute essay contest**

The Bill of Rights Institute sponsors an annual [We the Students Essay Contest](#) that awards more than \$20,000 in scholarships and prizes to students. This year's topic is "What are the essential qualities of a citizen in your community in 21st century America?" Submissions are due by Feb. 14.

### **Teaching Slavery Conference**

The University of Missouri is hosting a conference June 26-27 on the teaching of slavery and its aftermath. The conference, "[400 Years and Counting: Teaching Slavery and Its Aftermath](#)," will take place in Columbia, MO. It is now accepting presentation proposals. Submission deadline is Feb. 28.

### **African American History Month**

February is [African History Month](#). The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society.

### **James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation offers teacher fellowships**

The James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation offers \$24,000 [James Madison Graduate Fellowships](#) to individuals desiring to become outstanding teachers of the American Constitution at the secondary school level. Fellowship applicants compete only against other applicants from the states of their legal residence. As funding permits, the foundation plans to offer one fellowship per state, per year. The [application](#) now is open. The deadline to submit the 2019 application is March 1.

### **Law-Related Education Teacher of the Year award nominations is open**

For the past 60 years, the American Lawyers Alliance (ALA) has recognized the vital role that educators play in preparing the youth of our country to be well-informed citizens. Some students in classrooms today will be in the voting booths in 2020 and for many years to come. The ALA is a charitable, educational and nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote understanding and respect for the American legal system. In keeping with that tradition, the ALA is proud to sponsor the "2019 Law-Related Education Teacher of the Year" contest. This year, the contest is open also to elementary school teachers as well as middle school and high school teachers. If you, or someone you know, teaches Civics, U.S. history, social studies, U.S. government or if are involved in mock trial or We the People programs, or any other law-related education course, you are encouraged to apply for the award. Application deadline is March 15.

### **Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Semester Research Program for Teachers**

The [Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Semester Research Program for U.S. Teachers](#) provides an opportunity teachers of grades K-12 from the United States to take part in a three- to six-month professional development experience abroad. Teachers will pursue individual inquiry projects, take courses at a host university and collaborate with colleagues on best educational practices.

### ***Online course offerings***

#### **Jewish Partisan Foundation launches e-courses**

Nine [online courses](#) now are being offered by the Jewish Partisan Foundation. Each course comes with printable lesson plans and a detailed study guide.

#### **Upcoming National Archives webinars**

Check out [this listing of webinars](#) being offered throughout the fall by the National Archives. Topics include Women in Congress, Native American stories about the Lewis and Clark expedition and more.

#### **Center for Civic Education provides course for teachers on the American Constitution**

The [We the People Open Course](#) on [Learn.civiced.org](#) is a free opportunity for educators and others to learn more about the fundamental values and principles of American constitutional democracy. The course is self-paced and

follows the content of the Center for Civic Education's nationally renowned *We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution* text. In each of the course's six units, a noted scholar explains topics related to the Constitution. Participants explore topics ranging from the philosophical foundations of the U.S. Constitution to its modern interpretation and the application of its ideals. Teachers and other interested people can take the entire course or just select the sections that interest them. The course is indexed with key concepts necessary for all citizens to know in understanding the American political system.

### **Teaching American History webinars**

The [TeachingAmericanHistory.org](http://TeachingAmericanHistory.org) [Saturday Webinars](#) focus on the "Great American Debates."

- Secessionists vs. Unionists – Jan. 12
- Imperialists vs. Non-Interventionists – Feb. 2
- Election of 1932: FDR vs. Hoover – March 2
- MLK vs. Malcolm X – April 6
- The Great Society vs. Modern Conservatism – May 11

The [Documents in Detail Webinars](#) offers a close read and in-depth discussion of a single document in each episode.

- Speech on the Repeal of the Missouri Compromise, Abraham Lincoln – Jan. 23
- Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, Theodore Roosevelt – Feb. 20
- "Fourteen Points" Message, Woodrow Wilson – March 20
- 1944 State of the Union Address, Franklin D. Roosevelt – April 24
- "Great Society" Speech, Lyndon Johnson – May 15

### **Summer opportunities**

#### **Summer - College Board offers AP Summer Institutes**

[AP Summer Institutes](#) offer the most intensive professional development available for AP educators. Summer Institute attendees engage in 30 or more hours of content-rich training designed to strengthen how they teach their AP courses.

College Board-endorsed consultants will guide attendees through resources such as course outlines; content-specific handouts; and student samples, scoring guidelines and commentary from the most recent AP Exams. AP Summer Institutes are helpful for both new and experienced teachers and may meet your state requirements for professional development. Scholarships are available.

#### **American history professional development and graduate credit opportunities for K-12 teachers**

Registration for the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History's 2019 Teacher Seminars now is open. The 2019 seminar offers teachers of grades K-12 daily programs with America's leading historians, visits to local historic sites and hands-on work with primary sources. Teacher Seminars are open exclusively to teachers in its Affiliate School Program.

#### **Additional updated summer professional development opportunities are offered**

A list of [professional development opportunities for social studies educators](#) will be updated through the spring. This information was compiled by Stefanie Wager, vice president of the National Council for the Social Studies, who serves on the Council of State Social Studies Specialists.

### **Resources**

#### **The Asia Society**

This website presents profiles of 11 Asian countries describing their history, politics, culture and economics. It also provides content related to after-school programs, world languages, case studies in global education and the society's 20 model schools. Students will find articles, games and puzzles.

#### **How to Create Effective PBL Projects**

Project-based learning should connect to real-world scenarios and target specific standards and skills, asserts education consultant and instructional coach Frank McKay. In this blog post, he outlines common PBL pitfalls and how to avoid them.

#### **Eagle Eye Citizen**

Solve and create American history and civics challenges to explore Library of Congress primary sources — and look closer.

#### **Eagle Eye Citizen takes flight!**

Eagle Eye Citizen engages middle and high school students in solving and creating interactive challenges about Congress, American history, civics and government with Library of Congress primary sources in order to develop students' civic understanding and historical thinking skills.

#### **Edtechteacher: Best of History Websites**

This site provides a wide variety of topic and resources.

### **Helping Young Children Make Sense of the World**

This article from Chalkbeat explains how social studies helps young children make sense of the world.

### **Historical Scene Investigation**

The Historical Scene Investigation Project (HSI) was designed for social studies teachers who need a strong pedagogical mechanism for bringing primary sources into their classroom.

### **How Can Humans Address Their Negative Impact on the Environment?**

This inquiry leads students through an investigation of human-environment interactions using the ahupua'a of Waimanalo and Kailua as a case study. By investigating the compelling question, students examine the environmental particulars of their region, the ways in which humans have historically interacted with the environment and the current environmental characteristics.

### **How Could Americans Be Happier?**

This inquiry leads students through an investigation of recent studies that try to quantify a country's happiness through different economic measures. By investigating the compelling question about whether Americans could be happier, students consider the ways in which economic values (e.g., freedom, security, sustainability) impact our perspectives on happiness and the extent to which we could be happier as a country.

### **Mount Vernon digital resources for the classroom**

The George Washington Teacher Institute provides primary sources from Washington's life and the lives of those around him with mobile-ready tools and secondary resources ideal for student use.

### **Teaching the Nanjing Atrocities**

This unit draws upon and adapts resources from the book [The Nanjing Atrocities: Crimes of War](#) and its related media collection. This unit consists of five lessons designed to lead high school students through an examination of the war crimes perpetrated by Japanese troops in the Chinese city of Nanjing during World War II.

### **NCSS Digital Library**

The National Council for the Social Studies offers excellent lessons for all courses. To access the lessons, readers must be members of the council.

### **Ohio Apportionment: A Simulation Using Ohio Counties and 2010 Census Data on ArcGIS Online**

This simulation lets teachers and students quickly explore the population of Ohio — and work on dividing it up. But different people will make different choices, with different reasons and different impacts. Very quickly, and without login, users can explore and make some decisions and start contemplating other patterns. In just a few minutes, users can test various scenarios.

### **What makes a person from history worth remembering?**

This inquiry explores historical figures with the purpose of identifying and understanding their character traits and contributions to history. The compelling question "What makes a person from history worth remembering?" is intellectually respectful of students who, by their nature, are interested in people and why they are famous.

### **RECOMMEND A RESOURCE!**

Teachers, we invite you to forward resource websites you have used in the classroom to share in this newsletter. We do not include websites with URLs that end in ".com." We will acknowledge who provided the resource. Please identify the content statement(s) and grade or high school course it is associated with. Send to Dwight Groce at the email address below.

### ***Send comments/questions to:***

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