

HISTORY HAPPENINGS

Volume II, Issue 9

CASD Social Studies Department

October 2023

Department Teacher Spotlight:

Mr. Melisauskas – 7th Grade World Cultures Wilson Middle School

Mr. Melisauskas has been a teacher for 29 years, spending one year at Lambertson and the other 28 years at Wilson Middle School. He received his undergraduate degree at Shippensburg University in both criminal justice and education. Mr. Melisauskas says his favorite thing about teaching 7th grade is the energy and enthusiasm of the students. He enjoys teaching about world cultures because there are so many interesting places and people to learn about in our world. A fun fact about Mr. Melisauskas is that he played professional



baseball in the Dodgers and Blue Jay organizations before becoming a teacher. He was also an extra in the movie “Major League 2” that was filmed in Harrisburg and Baltimore. Students might be surprised to learn that Mr. Melisauskas has never had a cup of coffee and he stops at Sheetz every day after school to get a Slurpee. If he could be any superhero, Mr. Melisauskas would be Superman because he has all the necessary powers – flying, strength, and speed.

Mr. Sollman – 10th Grade World History Carlisle High School – Swartz Bldg.

Mr. Sollman has been a teacher for six years. Previously, he worked for 17 years in politics and government for a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. He received his undergraduate degree in political science from Penn State University. He also holds a Master of Education degree from Edinboro University. Mr. Sollman says it is both exciting and gratifying to see the huge strides many 10th graders make academically and in finding a sense of themselves over the course of their sophomore year, and then be able to follow the remaining two years of their high school careers. He says that teaching world history is a

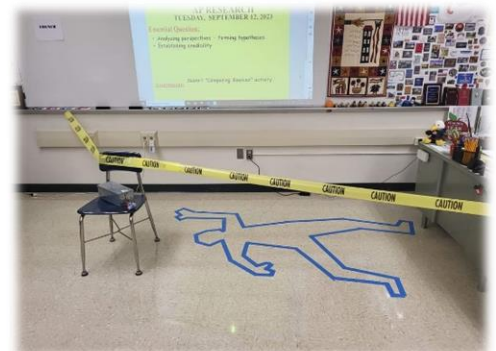
complex and fascinating subject to teach. It is fun to find the meaning in everyday life and find the connections from the past. He tries to embed as many of those moments as he can, but he is also still discovering them on his own all the time. A fun fact for Mr. Sollman – in the past year he has really gotten into acting on stage even though he never had done it before. He will be playing Judge Danforth in “The Crucible” at the Carlisle Theater from October 13-22! Students might be surprised to learn that Mr. Sollman’s strongest subject in high school was math and not social studies. At one point, he talked about becoming a math teacher, like his mom, and originally went to Penn State to become an aeronautical engineer. If Mr. Sollman could be any superhero, he would be Iron Man. He likes that his superpower is being incredibly smart and being able to build anything that he needs. Much like many of his students, Iron Man’s only limit is his own imagination!



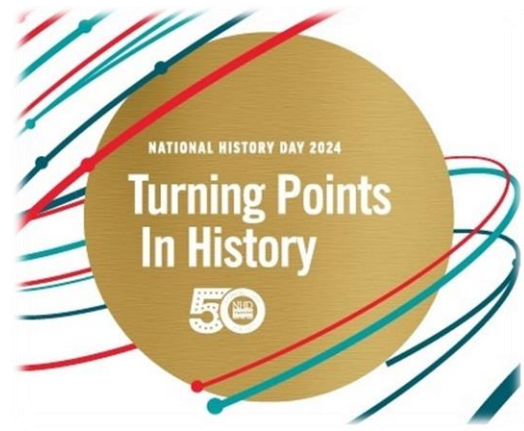
Department Happenings: What’s Going on in Our S.S. Classrooms?

Mr. Wagner’s AP Research Class:

There seemed to have been a murder inside room C-147 in mid-September and the AP Research students had to figure out who the killer was. This was a chance for the students to learn how to work with evidence, analyze the data, and make a claim – something they will need to do with their own research. Some skill work needs to be done, as none of the four teams were able to solve the murder and find the killer!



Mrs. Lively's 6th Grade World Cultures & Geography: Lambertson 6W Social Studies recently learned about the 5 Themes of Geography. To help master the theme of movement, students simulated the movement of ideas, goods, and people by trying to work around several obstacles in their way. Some of the obstacles included language barriers and landforms that made it impossible for goods to continue moving through the global economy. The students were then tasked with simulating the movement of people (migration) and found themselves, unfortunately, in the midst of a refugee crisis. Amazingly the students found a way to display humanitarian aid in the midst of the chaos of a mass migration.



**NATIONAL HISTORY DAY:
50th ANNIVERSARY!!!!**

"The world henceforth will be run by synthesizers, people able to put together the right information at the right time, think critically about it, and make important choices wisely."

~ E.O. Wilson, American Biologist,
Pulitzer Prize Winner and Professor Emeritus Harvard

Senior Voter Registration Drive

Once again Carlisle High School's social studies department has teamed up with the Governor's Office to attempt to register 85% of all eligible seniors to vote before the May 2024 primary. If CHS can reach this milestone, we will receive the Governor's Civic Engagement Award. Carlisle High School has a strong history in the six years of this program, obtaining five Gold-level awards (2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2022) and one Silver-level award (2020). Can we do it seven years in a



row? If you know your son or daughter will turn 18 on or before the November 7th election, please have them reach out. They may get the application from Mr. Wagner, any social studies teacher, or the McGowan main office. **The application deadline for the November 7th election is October 23rd!**

Contests & Competitions

There are many opportunities for our 6th-12th grade students to write and win cash prizes or scholarships. Here is a list of upcoming opportunities. Find more at our department website – click the link below:

[https://www.carliseschools.org/academics/subject/social_studies/news_ awards](https://www.carliseschools.org/academics/subject/social_studies/news_awards)

Rotary 4-Way Speech Competition

(Applications due to Mr. Wagner by October 27, 2023)

VFW Competitions

(Essay & Application due to Mr. Wagner by 10/30)

Freedoms Foundation – Youth Essay Contest

(Due to Mr. Wagner electronically by March 1, 2024)

National History Day is a year-long program that helps student develop the following critical skills and abilities for their future:

- Critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Research and reading skills
- Oral and written communication and presentation skills
- Self-esteem and confidence
- A sense of responsibility for and involvement in the democratic process

Each year, thousands of middle and high school students (grades 6-12) and teachers across the United States participate in National History Day, a year-long educational program that culminates in a national contest every June. Students prepare original projects using primary sources and compete in a local contest. The winners move on to district and state competitions. Those winners move on to the national competition in Washington. Along the way, every participant gains first-hand experience conducting historical research and analysis and by producing a documentary, exhibit, essay, performance, or website. Through this journey of exploration students learn to synthesize information and develop balanced conclusions based on their findings.

The 2024 NHD theme is:

TURNING POINTS IN HISTORY

Carlisle Organization Spotlight:

CUMBERLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Cumberland County Historical Society has a variety of ways to enjoy the rich history of the region. There is a free Museum at the 21 North Pitt St. location, now featuring Railroading in the Cumberland Valley, alongside permanent gallery exhibits detailing fine arts, folk arts, military history, industry, and the Carlisle Indian Industrial School. Their programming runs the spectrum of academic lectures, hands-on demonstrations, accredited teacher's workshops, chartered walking tours to musical concerts. If you want to research your own topic, schedule an appointment for their Archives and Library and dive into the millions of documents and photos. In addition to providing area schools with interactive history presentations, their Education Department has summer History Camps available for students fourth through ninth grades. For older students, **they offer a wealth of National History Day resources**, internships, and summer paid work experience opportunities. The best way to realize the full benefits of CCHS is to become a member and **new for this year is the Teacher/Student membership**. This gives you all the benefits at a greatly reduced price.

Special Teacher / Student Single Membership

<https://www.historicalsociety.com/product/cumberland-county-teacher-membership/>

The Cumberland County Historical Society, in its commitment to supporting educators in the County, is offering a special discounted Single Membership to any current or retired Teacher in Cumberland County. \$25 Membership (A \$20 discount, \$45 Value)

- A Teacher / Student Membership includes access to CCHS Resources and Lesson plans as well as discounts on field trips and activities.
- Includes all the basic benefits of a CCHS membership.
- Use of Archives & Library for members including use of Ancestry.com
- A copy of CCHS' program calendars, annual report, and program mailings
- A copy of our Cumberland County History Journal
- 10% off gift shop purchases (Some exclusions apply) with 20% discount in Museum Shop on the second Saturday of each month
- Members only pricing on most events
- Discounts on walking and bus tours

- CCHS car decal
- Monthly e-blasts
- Invitations to member only events, including receptions and behind-the-scenes tours.
- Discounts for History Workshop Labs, home-school programs and summer camps.

Upcoming Events for CCHS in October 2023

- Oct. 7 Hand spinning demonstration at History on High with Donna Bert
- Oct 12 Reed Architectural Lecture: Down by the Station, Architecture of the CVRR
- Oct 14 Schoeppe Murder Trial lecture and book signing by author Mark Podia
- Oct 14 Mt. Tabor AME Zion Church walking tour
- Oct 14 Whiskey America experience at Historic Heishman's Mill
- Oct 17 I Knew George Washington lecture by author Jeffrey Finnegan Sr.
- Alternative 80s Night at the Carlisle Theatre, featuring The Thompson Triplets and Caligula Blushed

For the Month of October

October is..

- Adopt a Shelter Dog Month
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- National Apple Month
- National Book Month
- National Bullying Prevention Month
- National Pizza Month
- National Roller-Skating Month

Some Historical Events...

- 10/1/1908 – Ford introduces the Model T
- 10/3/1955 – Mickey Mouse Club air on ABC
- 10/5/1952 – Beatles release their first single "Love Me Do"
- 10/10/1913 – The Panama Canal joins the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans
- 10/13/1960 – The first televised presidential debate ever – Kennedy and Nixon
- 10/18/1898 – U.S. takes possession of Puerto Rico
- 10/22/1914 – First federal income tax law is passed
- 10/24/1945 – UN is formally created
- 10/27/1904 – New York subway opens
- 10/31/1941 – Mt. Rushmore is completed