NHD students are critical thinkers who can digest, analyze and synthesize information.

WHAT IS WYOMING SAYING ABOUT WHD?

“The curriculum materials History Day provides are fabulous -- very informative!”
6th grade History Day teacher

“It has helped me teach research skills in a constructive and practical way, while helping me meet my Social Studies and Language Art benchmarks.”
9th grade History Day teacher

“I love History Day and would encourage everyone to do it. It has endless opportunities and experiences.”
11th grade History Day student

“I have learned to be more responsible and work in a group. It was a great learning experience.”
8th grade History Day student

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Wyoming History Day students engaged in primary source research at the American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming, under the tutelage of WHD director Rick Ewig.
WHAT IS HISTORY DAY?

History Day provides an innovative curriculum framework that uses history to challenge students in grades 6-12 to improve their research, analytical, and communication skills.

In groups or individually, students conduct research on topics related to the annual theme. This search for primary and secondary sources leads students to libraries, archives, historical societies, museums, and frequently to oral history interviews.

Students present their findings to a panel of judges using papers, museum-style exhibits, original dramatic performances, web sites, or documentaries.

Students may enter History Day contests at the district level, with those who place in each category and division advancing to the state contest, and then to the national contest.

History Day accomplishes the goals of educational reform and raising standards – the development of knowledgeable, skilled, creative, and enthusiastic learners and citizens.

Wyoming History Day is sponsored and administered by the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming and co-sponsored by the Wyoming State Historical Society and the Department of State and Parks and Cultural Recreation. It is the state affiliate of National History Day.

WHO MAY PARTICIPATE?

There are two divisions.
- The Junior Division is for students in grades 6 – 8.
- The Senior Division is for students in grades 9 – 12.

There are five categories.
- Papers
- Exhibits
- Documentaries
- Web Sites
- Performances

With the exception of papers, each category is open for individual and group entries.

WHAT IS THE FORMAT OF THE COMPETITION?

MEETING STANDARDS

The integration of History Day into the curriculum helps students meet local, state, and national educational standards.

- History Day enhances standards based curriculum.
- According to the findings in the National Program Evaluation of History Day, students who participate outperform their peers on writing assessments, frequently score higher on standardized tests, and develop a deeper appreciation of history.

History Day is not only an excellent way for teachers to address the standards with their students; it is an exciting way for students to set high standards for themselves.

IMPORTANT DATES

FALL  Teacher Workshop focused on the Annual Theme
MARCH  District Competitions
APRIL  State Competition
JUNE  National Competition

WHAT DOES THE RESEARCH SAY?*

- Overall, NHD students outscored comparison-group students on both pre- and post-writing assessments, receiving more exemplary scores (5’s or 6’s) on a 6-point scale, and fewer low scores.
- Performance assessments show that NHD students were 18% better overall than their peers at interpreting historical information.
- Compared to non-NHD boys and to all girls, boys participating in NHD reported significantly higher levels of interest in history, civic engagement, and confidence in research skills, on both pre- and post-surveys.
- NHD students consistently express more confidence than students who do not participate in NHD, including research skills, public speaking, the ability to organize a report, knowledge of current events, work habits, evaluating sources, and writing skills.

* Researchers from Rockman, et al, examined students’ success across a range of measures and then compared their evaluations of students who participated in National History Day to their peers who did not participate in NHD.

FOR INFORMATION

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