

# iHistorian<sup>©</sup>

(inform - inspire - instruct)

A K-12 Resource for ALL History / Social Studies Teachers

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## Amber Larsen, DSMS: Oct.'s iHistorian<sup>©</sup>



Ancestry and PSUSD come together to create unique learning experiences for students. Together with [Ancestryclassroom.com](http://Ancestryclassroom.com), Amber Larsen has started a program where students can research and discover their roots in real-time using web searches through the Ancestry website. Best of all, it is available to ALL in PSUSD.

[<<more>>](#)

## New Format / New Name

This PSUSD History / Social Studies newsletter, in its second issue, is already growing. To facilitate this change and maximize your time, ALL stories will be introduced on this “blue” cover page, with links to the remainder of the story on the “red” pages that follow.

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## Common Assessments Coming (6-12)

That’s right, this year the Common Assessment deadline has moved to March 29, 2019. It has also expanded.

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## Focus on Mission and Belief Statements

Over the past year, PSUSD leaders and stakeholders have been developing and refining our Mission/Belief ...

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## Resources Review

- [Newsela](#) - an Instructional Content Platform that supercharges reading engagement and learning in every subject.
- [Padlet](#) - From your hobby to your career, your class notes to your exit out the door, padlets help you organize your life.

For tutorials, applications, and more click:

[<<more>>](#)

## Special Feature - Trivia Contest

Each month something new and engaging will be presented for teachers. This month, we are having a Trivia Contest. How Much Do You Know About George Washington?

[<<more>>](#)

## Textbook Adoption - UPDATE

Did you know that this year, PSUSD is going through a textbook adoption process to select new curriculum materials for the 2019/2020 school year?

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## Upcoming Dates

- 10/8, 11/6, 12/11 - Textbook Adoption Trainings (invite only)
- 10/8 - District PD for H/SS teachers will be held at RMHS (Check [Here](#) for Room Assignments)

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### Amber Larsen, DSMS: Oct.'s iHistorian<sup>®</sup>

Amber has been with PSUSD for 4 years (12 in education). Her hometown is Sebastopol, CA. She attended the University of Oregon with majors in Journalism and Political Science. She also has a Masters in Education. Her current assignment is at Desert Springs Middle School, teaching multiple subjects, including history, in the Scorpion Academy, a specialized program for the most at-risk students on campus. There is a strong focus on bringing these students up to grade level. Students also receive an hour of counseling each day.

Through a grant (easy grant to write), Amber secured a one year access for students (and staff) to use the [Ancestryclassroom.com](http://Ancestryclassroom.com) website to search their roots.

Amber's Scorpion Academy students work on this website as a project to learn about migration. Students search the site to learn when their family first came to this country. Once they learn this, they study their country of origin and what was happening in that time period to possibly learn why they moved here. Students then used [WeVideo](http://WeVideo) to create a documentary about their family's migration to America. This assignment can easily be replicated or modified to include research of any historical figure.

This special division of Ancestry will only work while connecting from the PSUSD IP Address. There is no login required. This means, if you assign this to students, they can only work on it at school. Everyone one in PSUSD has access to this resource. Access ends near the end of this school year. (perhaps, someone else can reapply?).

Please feel free to reach out to Amber if you have any questions at [alarsen@psusd.us](mailto:alarsen@psusd.us).

Are you doing something innovative, creative, unique? Know someone who is? Send an email with details to [reves@psusd.us](mailto:reves@psusd.us).

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### Resources Review

- [Newsela](#) - This webservice has content in all subject areas. With a focus on reading, it is adaptable to individual student abilities, reading levels, and it is interactive. Great resource for close reading, annotating text, prompting writing, and it even has quick comprehension assessments built right in. It integrates well with Google Classroom. In PSUSD, K-5 teachers have access to the free teacher version; 6-12 teachers, have access to the PRO version. Newsela has a full range of [training tools](#) to get you started. Or watch this [video summary](#) of what Newsela can do for students and more on their [YouTube Channel](#).
- [Padlet](#) - Padlet is familiar, even to someone that has never used it. Use Padlet to create interactive, online boards, for students, teachers, staff, etc to post comments, questions, and more. Great resource for collaboration, tickets out the door, and more. This resource continues to grow to meet the needs of teachers/professionals. There is a free version to use, but can always be upgraded. Take a [Tour](#) or dig [deeper](#) or just want an introduction [video](#), check these out!

*(Have a suggestion for a great resource you'd like to share, email [reves@psusd.us](mailto:reves@psusd.us) or check out other resources @ [www.psusdhistory.us](http://www.psusdhistory.us).)*

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### Textbook Adoption - UPDATE

Here are the programs being piloted:

- *Middle Schools are piloting - Pearson, McGraw-Hill, and National Geographic.*
- *High Schools are piloting - Pearson, McGraw-Hill, and TCI.*

All secondary schools have representatives that are piloting the materials (20 teachers in all). Do you know who is piloting at your site? They are definitely going above and beyond, teaching a regular workload, and learning and teaching using three new curriculums. These teachers are SUPERSTARS by any standard. Their work is greatly appreciated.

The full committee of 20 teachers, librarians, and administrators will meet in December to discuss everything that was learned during the pilots over the last six months. A recommendation will then be made to the School Board for adoption. Ordering and training will fill out the rest of this school year. The newly adopted curriculum will go into effect 2019/2020 school year.

If you have any questions regarding the program or process, please seek out one of super pilot teachers at your site or email [reves@psusd.us](mailto:reves@psusd.us).

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### New Format / New Name

No new stories will appear on the “red” pages. This format will enable more stories, with greater detail to follow.

We have also adopted a new name - iHistorian<sup>®</sup>. The “i” refers to this newsletter’s purpose - to inform - to inspire - to instruct. The “Historian” refers both to your role as an educator in shaping the next generation and making history doing it. We are always looking for relevant content, stories, upcoming events, etc. to add to upcoming issues. If you have something to share, please email [reves@psusd.us](mailto:reves@psusd.us).

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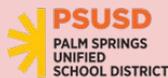
### Common Assessments Coming (6-12)

This year, the Common Assessments has expanded to include 6th grade, 11th grade, and 12th grade Civics ... so, now 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 Civics are administering a district-wide common assessment. A committee of teachers representing each grade and secondary school met near the end of the 2017-2018 school year to set norms for the test and to come to a consensus on the topic for each grade for the assessment. Here are the [Consensus Topics and Norms](#) for each grade. The agreed upon [Scoring Rubric](#) is a slightly modified version of the Holistic Rubric within the DBQ Project. While the Common Assessment calls for teachers to administer and score one DBQ during the year, teachers are encouraged to complete multiple DBQ or DBQ-like activities during the year to adequately prepare their students. [Teachers may use the DBQ Online format for the assessment OR the paper format from the binders OR a combination thereof]. [The reporting format to the district in March is still being developed. I will let you know when it is in place and provide you with step-by-step instructions and/or inservice your department]. Please see your department lead teacher if you have any follow up questions. Ava Armacost, our DBQ Online Representative is also available to answer questions, offer webinars to walk you through the process. She can be reached directly at [ava@dbqproject.com](mailto:ava@dbqproject.com). Or email [reves@psusd.us](mailto:reves@psusd.us) for more information / details.

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### Focus on Mission and Belief Statements

statements. Besides getting a new logo and a new motto “Lifelong Learning Starts Here,” the district has also developed a set of core beliefs. There are a total of five [PSUSD Belief Statements](#) in the areas of:



- Student Success;
- Culture, Relationships, and Social Emotional Health;
- Deep, Meaningful Learning and Opportunities;
- Professionalism, Communication, and Collaboration;
- Community and Parent Engagement.

This month’s focus is on Student Success. As a district, we foster:

- A growth mindset;
- Emotionally safe and inspiring learning environments;
- An every-student, every-day mentality;
- Highly engaging learning opportunities;
- Instruction that is tailored to student needs;
- Learning that propels students towards meeting their full potential.

During the month of October, reflect on your own teaching. What areas are your strongest? Which are you developing? Share your thoughts with @ [reves@psusd.us](mailto:reves@psusd.us). While not all reflections can be published, some will be shared anonymously in the next issue.

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### Special Feature - Trivia Contest

Answer the questions in one sitting, do not look up answers, and the results will be anonymously posted next month (this is on the HONOR System). First teacher to score 100% (or the highest score of the month) will be announced in the next issue. Contest will close on October 24, 2018 @ 11:59 P.M.

<Click the link to start the quiz>

[How Much Do You Know About George Washington?](#)

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### Upcoming Dates

- 10/11 - Coachella Valley Regional College and Career Fair - 5-8 P.M. - Ballroom, Agua Caliente Resort - [Details & Tickets HERE!](#)
- 10/20 - Jr. Ranger Expo - Agua Caliente Indian Canyons (17 & under Free; 1 Free adult with each child) - [Details & Tickets HERE!](#)
- 11/3 - Kewet, Native American Learning Day & Market - Palm Springs High School - 9-1 P.M. - [Details & Tickets HERE!](#)
- 11/6 - Election Day - Be a Civic Minded Example for YOUR STUDENTS
- **UPDATE** - THE ELD Tuesday Night Trainings that were in the last Issue have been CANCELLED. I will update you here if something changes.

Do you have upcoming events at your site others should know about? Email [reves@psusd.us](mailto:reves@psusd.us) and let him know.

