

Rob “Cully” Cullinan, RMHS:



November's iHistorian

With all the buzz in education surrounding the idea of creating smaller learning communities of students by using a [station rotation model](#), “Cully” has taken it to a new level with high school students. Once a week is devoted to a station rotation model of teaching.

[<<more>>](#)

“There Ought to Be a Law”

Have you ever thought or asked - why isn't there a law? State Senator Jeff Stone is once again sponsoring the “There Ought to be a Law” competition. Last year, PSUSD had a finalist in the competition.

[<<more>>](#)

Common Assessments Coming (6-12)

This year's Common Assessment deadline is approaching. Plan ahead for best results. Read all the details and how to submit your scores.

[<<more>>](#)

Focus on Mission and Belief Statements

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

[<<more>>](#)

Resources Review

- [Kahoot!](#) - Kahoot! is a game-based learning and trivia platform used in classrooms, offices and social settings. Sign up to create, play and share fun quizzes on any topic!
- [Quizlet](#) - Search millions of study sets or create your own. Improve your grades by studying with flashcards, games and more.

For tutorials, applications, and more click:

[<<more>>](#)

Special Feature - Trivia Contest

Last month, we had a Trivia Contest about George Washington. We had a 3-way Tie for 1st Place. Congratulations: [Lori Wilson](#) and [Mario Estrada](#), both from DSMS and [Craig Arcilla](#) of DSHS. ([ANSWERS](#)) This month, test your Monticello Knowledge!

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Textbook Adoption - UPDATE

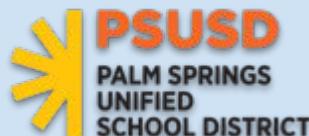
Did you know that this year, PSUSD is going through a textbook adoption process to select new curriculum materials for the 2019/2020 school year? Who are these superheros at your site?

[<<more>>](#)

Upcoming Dates

- 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

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“Cully”, RMHS: November’s iHistorian[®]

Rob “Cully” Cullinan has been with PSUSD for 3 years (20 total years in education). He is from Mission Viejo, CA, but his hometown is now La Quinta. He has a Bachelor’s Degree in Social Science from University of the Pacific. He also has a Master’s in Education - Cross-Cultural Teaching. His current assignment is at Rancho Mirage High School, teaching U.S. History and Civics. His core mission is to create students who are informed and active citizens in our community and in life.

At the start of the school year, Cully takes time to properly train his students in the procedures of station rotations in his classroom. Adequate time spent on procedures pays off in the long run. On one station rotation day, students navigated through 10 stations in a 60 minute period. There was minimal time spent on transitions.

Activities at the stations ranged from current event discussion, to a textbook scavenger hunt, to review questions from assignments. There was also a blending of curricular/non-curricular focused questions. There were independent questions, group discussions, even one station that resulted in a common response with evidence that got posted in the room. Some stations were on Chromebooks, while others were focused on print materials.

To facilitate such an active station rotation schedule, Cully numbered the stations, directions, and links all on one Google Document. This document was sent out to students via Google Classroom. As students traveled from station to station, they brought their Chromebooks with them to keep them on track. With these directions at the students fingertips throughout the period, students were effectively empowered with everything they needed and it freed the teacher up to circulate the room and assist, prompt, and motivate students for higher-level responses and work.

Please feel free to reach out to Rob “Cully” Cullinan if you have any questions at rcullinan@psusd.us.

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

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Resources Review

- [Kahoot!](#) - Create a fun learning game in minutes – we call these ‘kahoots’. You can make a series of multiple choice questions or try our new game – Jumble. Add videos, images and diagrams to your questions to amplify engagement. Players answer the questions on their own devices, while games are displayed on a shared screen to unite the lesson. Besides creating your own kahoots, you can search among millions of existing games. Social learning promotes discussion and pedagogical impact, whether players are in the same room or on the other side of the globe. Practice makes perfect! With the challenge feature and our mobile app, you can assign kahoots as homework. Watch this [video summary](#) of what Kahoot! can do.
- [Quizlet](#) - More than 95% of students who learn with Quizlet report improved grades. See how Quizlet’s simple tools can help you learn anything, from beginning algebra, to AP US History, to college level econometrics — and beyond. Starting with a simple online learning tool, Quizlet today offers tools for students to make flashcards, practice spelling, play learning games, test their knowledge, collaborate with other students, and more. Watch this [video summary](#) of what Quizlet can do.

(Have a suggestion for a great resource you’d like to share, email reves@psusd.us or check out other resources @ www.psusdhistory.us.)

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Textbook Adoption - UPDATE

As we move into the third and final round of Piloting Programs, we want to take this opportunity to publicly thank the hard work of the pilot teachers. Besides teaching a full schedule, these teachers learned three new curriculums, used them in the classroom, and field tested the quality of the programs. Here are the Pilot Teacher/Super Heros:

- Virginia Martinez and Lori Wilson - DSMS
- Michael Cloutier, Irene Griffis, Lori Overbo - JWMS
- Alyssa Delgado and Cathie Sowell - NCMS
- Malysa McCubbin and Jennifer Marruffo - PHMS
- Corinne Griswold and Vincenza Lane - RCMS
- Avie Mueller and Lee Wilson - CCHS
- Colleen Morgan - DHSHS
- Sean Pendergraph - MSJHS
- Richard Haga, Laurie Sepulveda, Eric Thorson - PSHS
- Bryan Downer and Rob "Cully" Cullinan - RMHS

Appreciate and thank them for their extra effort. They are truly deserving.

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.

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"There Ought to Be a Law"

"By asking our high school students to propose new laws, I am hoping to tap into their bright, inquisitive minds and also to inspire them to get involved in politics and public service," Senator Stone said. The deadline for students to submit their proposed legislation is December 7, 2018. At least one entry will be selected and proposed to the State Senate and Assembly for consideration in becoming a state law. Past winners include [Alyson White](#), a senior at RMHS. For information and an entry form visit Senator Stone's website - <https://stone.cssrc.us/content/there-ought-to-be-law>.

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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 all secondary schools, 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 is being developed and will rollout this month ... before the [Thanksgiving Break](#). The [Consensus Topics and Norms](#) will be updated to include "[How](#)" and "[Where](#)" to submit your student scores. 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 DBQ process [but not the reporting of scores]. She can be reached directly at ava@dbqproject.com. Or email reves@psusd.us for more information / details.

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Focus on Mission and Belief Statements

statements. 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 Culture, Relationships, and Social Emotional Health. As a district, we value:

- Discovering and celebrating individual differences as assets;
- A culture that is welcoming and inclusive;
- Learning that enhances social emotional growth;
- Strong interpersonal connections and mutually respectful relationships;
- Removing real or perceived barriers to challenging and enriching academic opportunities.

During the month of November, reflect on your own teaching. What areas are your strongest? Which are you developing? Share your thoughts with @ reves@psusd.us. While not all reflections can be published, some may 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 November 28, 2018 @ 11:59 P.M.

<Click the link to start the quiz>

[Test your Monticello Knowledge! - Level 1](#)

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Upcoming Dates

- 11/7 - [Digital Storytelling](#) Video Chat
- 11/10-11/17 - [Healing Field](#) Cathedral City, Adopt a fallen soldier ([video](#))
- 11/11 - [Veterans Day Parade](#), 3PM - Palm Springs
- 11/12 - Holiday - [Veterans Day](#)
- 11/13 - [BOE Meeting](#)
- 11/19 - 11/23 - [Thanksgiving Recess](#)
- 11/27 - [BOE Meeting](#)
- 12/7 - "[There Ought to be a Law](#)" Deadline
- 12/11 - [BOE Meeting](#)
- 12/24-1/14/19 - [Winter Recess](#)

Do you have upcoming events at your site others should know about? Email reves@psusd.us and let us know.