

iHistorian[©]

(inform - inspire - instruct)

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

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Irene Griffis, JWMS:



February's iHistorian

Creativity and personality can bring any history lesson to life. Mrs. Griffis has (and uses) both in her classroom. According to [Minnesota State University, Moorhead](#) "role-playing games provide an interactive learning environment that draws students more deeply into historical contexts, promotes peer engagement and

[<<more>>](#)

Welcome Elementary Teachers!

As we move into the second half of the school year, History TOSA support is beginning at elementary schools. The first half of the year, the focus was on a secondary pilot and making a recommendation for new

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Common Assessments (6-12) - UPDATE

This year's Common Assessment deadline is rapidly 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 ...

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Resources Review

- [Teach Like a Champion \(TLAC\)](#) - Teach Like a Champion provides educators with a set of techniques, a shared vocabulary, and a framework for practice that equip teachers to achieve dramatic results with their students. Our resources are used by schools throughout the world.

[<<more>>](#)

Native American Curriculum Unit

After more than 1 ½ years of planning, researching, collaborating, coordinating, writing, verifying, and more ... the combined efforts of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, The Foundation for PSUSD, and PSUSD are very excited to announce that the first ever

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Textbook Adoption - UPDATE

On January 22, 2019, the PSUSD Board of Education unanimously approved the recommendation to adopt:

- Impact by McGraw-Hill for grades 6-8; and
- History/Government/Econ Alive! by TCI for grades 10-12.

[<<more>>](#)

Upcoming Dates

- 2/5 - [State of the Union](#) - Click for resources
- 2/12 - Secondary H/SS Lead Teacher Meeting
- 2/12 - [BOE Meeting](#)
- 2/15 - [Lincoln's Day](#) (Obs.) - Click for resources
- 2/18 - [Presidents'/Washington's Day](#) (Obs.) - Click for resources

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Irene Griffis, JWMS: February's iHistorian[®]

improves intellectual and academic skills.” The ultimate goal is for students to apply what they learn from history. Irene Griffis uses this strategy to engage her students.

Irene is from Yucaipa, CA. She has a Master's Degree in Education from CSU, San Bernardino. She has been in education for 35 years - 20 with PSUSD. Her current assignment is U.S. History/8th grade at James Workman Middle School.

The [Center for Teaching and Learning](#) describes role-play as “an active learning strategy in which students either put themselves in other people's shoes or play themselves in imaginary scenarios. Role-play activities can be a very effective teaching tool, as they provide variety, a change of pace and often can be very fun.”

In one lesson, Irene greets her students at the door dressed as George Washington. The lesson focused on key issues during George Washington's presidency, the National Bank, Native American conflicts, and the Whiskey Rebellion. To enhance the lesson students were asked to wear hanging name badges for their specific roles: Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, Chief Little Turtle, and farmer. Washington questioned characters to provide their point of view to support or disagree with their specific issues and clarified as needed. At the end of the lesson students were asked to evaluate the decisions made by Washington along with supporting evidence as either positive or negative.

Grow your skill base. Please feel free to reach out to Irene if you have any questions at igriffis@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

- [Teach Like a Champion \(TLAC\)](#) - Think of the achievement gap you most want to close: the gap between rich and poor; the gap between what students think and what they can write; the gap between schools in the US and the best school systems in the world; the gap between what our schools offer and what they could be.
Their resources include a series of instructional strategies, video samples of strategies in action, books, online and in-person training, and “[Grab and Go](#)” section that has sample resources to try out. Check out this [video](#) for an overview of the strategies and techniques. This video is followed by a playlist of 90 additional videos. Check out any of these for additional information.
- The K-12 History/Social Studies TOSA has four copies of the *Teach Like a Champion 2.0 book and Field Guide* to check out on a weekly/monthly basis.
- Or, we can come out and teach your departments / grade levels a technique or two on a 2-1-2 day. Please reach out by email if you are interested in either of these options.
- The psusdhistory.us website (teaching resources and strategies page) has some samples of these strategies. Check them out and get started today on closing any achievement gaps you want to address.

(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

This adoption will start as the official curriculum for those grades for the 2019/2020 school year. Both programs have a traditional print copy of the book and resources AND strong online components to supplement and bring history to life.

Over the next couple of months, orders will be placed, received, bar coded, etc., and online accounts will be created.

There are multiple, two-day trainings set for the S3 conference following the end of the school year. You ONLY need to attend ONE of the two-day sessions.

Your department lead teachers will be getting the dates and more information at the lead teacher meeting on February 12. Please look for and ask for more information after that date.

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

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Welcome Elementary Teachers!

secondary curriculum and in writing a new 3rd grade Native American Curriculum Unit.

Starting this month, I am excited to be expanding support to elementary sites.

There are a couple things I'd like to share with you.

1. Communication and collaboration is a key to our success both as professionals and in working with students. The "online newsletter" is focused on bringing tools, innovations, profiles, resources, upcoming events, and much more. These newsletters are interactive with live links to the resources you need and will be circulated monthly.
2. There is also a dedicated website to everything "history/social studies" related. Check it out today.
www.psusdhistory.us.

Welcome Aboard!

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Common Assessments (6-12) - UPDATE

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 has been developed and sent out to all secondary H/SS teachers. Check your email, or send reves@psusd.us a request for a replacement email. The [Consensus Topics and Norms](#) is updated to include "How" and "Where" to submit your students 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 Community and Parent Engagement. As a district, we commit to:

- Valuing, trusting, respecting and cultivating all relationships within our diverse communities
- Community outreach that is ongoing, innovative, active, responsive, and ever-changing

During the month of February, reflect on your own teaching. What areas are your strongest? Which are you developing? Is this just the job of the Family Center or do we all play a role. Share your thoughts with us @ reves@psusd.us. While not all reflections can be published, some may be shared anonymously in the next issue.

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Native American Curriculum Unit

Tribe authorized, standards aligned unit about the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. This first unit will be piloted this 2nd half of 2018/19 in 3rd grade. Next year, the full unit goes into effect.

An 8th grade unit is set to begin the process this Spring with implementation set for the 2020/2021 school year. Check out more on this unit at ...

<http://www.psusdhistory.us/native-american-unit-3rd-grade.html>.

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Upcoming Dates

- 2/26 - [BOE Meeting](#)
- 3/1 - [End of Trimester 2](#) - ES/MS (not HS)
- 3/4 -3/8 - [Minimum Days](#) - ES Only
- 3/10 - [Daylight Saving](#) Begins
- 3/12 - [BOE Meeting](#)
- 3/22 - [End of Quarter 3](#) - HS Only
- 3/26 - [BOE Meeting](#) @ DHSHS

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