

iHistorian[©]

(inform - inspire - instruct)

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

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Marty Verdugo, NNCMS:



March's iHistorian

While teachers typically don't wear a cape, many are unsung heroes to their students all the same. Mr. Verdugo is such a teacher. He truly believes that every student can succeed. The power of "yet" and a [Growth Mindset](#) flows throughout his approach to teaching, both in and

[<<more>>](#)

Resource Review

- [House of Names](#) - is a commercial website, that this month's iHistorian uses to help his students learn about the origin and legacy of their family name. In teaching World History, this site "has been a valuable asset" in helping students connect with history. When students learn of family origins and then study those regions in their world

[<<more>>](#)

Textbook Adoption Training Dates SET

The PSUSD Board adopted texts of Impact by McGraw-Hill for grades 6-8 and History/Government/Econ Alive! by TCI for grades 10-12 training dates are set. Teacher's need ONLY attend

[<<more>>](#)

Elementary Teacher NEWS!

1. 78 - 3rd grade teachers have been trained in the new Agua Caliente Native American Curriculum rolling out this month. A 10-lesson unit of study, locally created in collaboration with the Agua

[<<more>>](#)

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>>](#)

CA Dept. of Education - H/SS Website

Did you know that the California Department of Education has dozens upon dozens of useful resources,

[<<more>>](#)

March - National Women's History Month

Women's History Month has its origins as a national celebration going back to the 1970s, when it was just "Women's History Week". In 1987, it was expanded to a

[<<more>>](#)

Upcoming Dates

- 3/1-3/31 - [Women's History Month](#)
- 3/1 - [End of Trimester 2](#) - ES/MS (not HS)
- 3/4 -3/8 - [Minimum Days](#) - ES Only
- 3/5 - [Ash Wednesday](#)
- 3/10 - [Daylight Saving](#) Time Begins

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

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Marty Verdugo, NNCMS: March's iHistorian[©] out of the classroom. As a teacher and a coach, Mr. Verdugo's approach toward his students and players is to take them from where they are and to move them forward. All students are capable of success. In his classroom, small and large student successes are celebrated as victories.

Marty is from Anderson, CA. He has a BA in History from CSU, Dominguez Hills. He has been in education for 17 years - 4 with PSUSD. His current assignment is World History/7th grade at Nellie Coffman Middle School.

Carol Dweck, a leading researcher in [mindsets](#), believes there are two mindsets - Fixed and Growth. Having a growth mindset is a belief that intelligence can be developed and is characterized by persistence in the face of setbacks, effort as a path to mastery, and more. Marty's "[Power of Choice](#)" bulletin board promotes a growth mindset in his classroom.

Marty's teaching philosophy is to teach core curriculum along with life skills. In addition, he tries to "bring history to life" through stories and making it relevant to the students.

One of Marty's colleague's describes him as, "a true inspiration to all his students, who often need encouragement to be successful students. He constantly encourages students to always do their best, ensuring the highest quality of their work at all times. By helping students to focus on their own personal strengths, he fosters the Growth Mindset, which will carry on with his students in the years to come. He provides a welcoming space for students to share their achievements, however big or small, and truly fosters a strong sense of pride in all they do in the classroom and outside of the classroom." It is no wonder that he was

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Marty Verdugo, NNCMS: March's iHistorian[©] the only H/SS teacher selected as [Teacher of the Year](#).

Feel free to reach out to Marty for more information on the Growth Mindset or just to congratulate him at:

mverdugo@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

- [House of Names](#) - history class, students seem to pay closer attention, study more, and exhibit a sense of pride. Mr. Verdugo uses this site at the beginning of the year to help his students connect with history for the rest of the year. Students learn their history and make short presentations to the class. While the activity may change from year to year, this site is used to help students have a personal sense of pride and to make a connection to what they are learning.

The [psusdhistory.us](#) website (teaching resources and strategies page) will have this and other teaching sources for you to use to "bring history to life." Check them out today.

(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 Training Dates SET

ONE of the two-day sessions. The dates are not in PDLinks yet, but here are the dates for you to block them out:

Middle School - attend one of the two-day trainings

* M/T, June 10 & 11 ... OR

* M/T, June 17 & 18

High School - attend one of the two-day trainings

* US/World - M/T, June 10 & 11 .. or .. W/Th, June 19 & 20

* Civ/Econ - W/Th, June 12 & 13 ... or ... M/T, June 17 & 18

You will get paid the “new” PD rate for these trainings. If these dates don’t work, there will be a one day follow up training after the new school year starts. It will be on a workday and will not include the PD stipend rate.

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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Elementary Teachers NEWS!

Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, the Foundation for PSUSD, and Palm Springs Unified School District, is set to rollout this month. This unit includes lesson plans, materials, and a field trip to the Indian Canyons.

2. Help Wanted - the dedicated website to everything “history/social studies” related (www.psusdhistory.us) is in its early stages (especially in elementary resources). I would love to build out this page with websites, tools, resources, that will make teaching history/social studies more engaging for students and helpful to teachers. If you have something you would like to share, please let me know ... OR ... invite me out to see a lesson. With so many great teachers in the district, I’m always picking up something good to share.

Email me with resources or invites @ reves@psusd.us.

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Common Assessments (6-12) - UPDATE

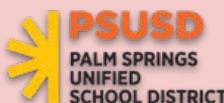
This year, the Common Assessments has expanded to include 6th grade, 11th grade, and 12th grade Civics ... so, now 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 Civics are administering a district-wide common assessment.

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. 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](#) are 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.

In April this year, a group of teachers from each site will be meeting to update the current units of study (to reflect the newly adopted curriculum) and create short-cycle assessment for next year. Email invitations will be coming out soon.



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CA Dept. of Education - H/SS Website

weblinks, information on legislation, competitions, and much more on their [website](#)? For example, currently there are links to:

- the standards and framework
- professional learning opportunities
- Constitution Day and Citizenship Day resources
- Programs for students (National History Day)
- Voter engagement resources
- and much much more.

There is even a monthly newsletter that gets emailed out (sign up required). It is filled with time relevant events, resources, and more. Check it out ... I'm sure you'll find more than one thing of use.

If you know of other resources such as this that others should know about, please drop me a quick email @ reves@psusd.us. Your colleagues and I appreciate it.

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March - National Women's History Month

month. Through the collaborative efforts of:

- Library of Congress
- National Archives and Records Administration
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- National Gallery of Art
- National Park Service
- Smithsonian Institution
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

a "[Women's History Month](#)" website was created. This site is filled with exhibits, collections, audio, video, images, and a whole section of teacher resources. Check out the website for more details.

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Upcoming Dates

- 3/12 - [BOE Meeting](#) @ DAC
- 3/17 - [St. Patrick's Day](#)
- 3/22 - [End of Quarter 3](#) - HS Only
- 3/26 - [BOE Meeting](#) @ DHSHS
- 3/29 - [National Vietnam War Veterans](#) Day
- 3/31 - [Cesar Chavez Day](#) (observed in CA on 4/1)

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