The History Day staff would like to say a huge thank you to all participants, parents, families, and teachers who made National History Day 2016 such a great year! It was a blast getting to know each of you, and we hope you had as memorable of an experience as we did. You are all winners to us! We hope to see you participating next year!
What an impressive batch of Minnesota middle schoolers we had at Nationals this year! Boasting a total of 8 National Finalists, including three first-third place finishers, these hard working young scholars impressed the judges with topics as varied as Charles Darwin, Margaret Sanger, Loving v. Virginia and the Special Olympics. It’s hard to believe most of the junior delegates were first time Nationals participants with how they shined in DC. From White Bear Lake to Duluth and everywhere in between, we can’t say enough about how impressed we were with this batch of kids. The future is bright for these young historians!

Not to be outdone by their junior counterparts, the senior division students came with experience and projects to be proud of. Five of our senior projects made it to the final round, and three projects snatched up medals. Projects on topics such as the XYZ Affair, Gordon Parks, prosthetics and Apollo-Soyuz made Minnesota proud. The senior delegation brought camaraderie, leadership and experience to the Minnesota team, and we couldn’t be more honored to say “yeah, they’re with us.” Congrats to all of our seniors, we know you will all do great things in the future!
We’ve said it before, and we’ll say it again: History Day would NOT be possible without the support from parents, teachers, mentors and the community. From providing transportation to libraries, proofreading scripts, late-night performance rehearsals and multiple documentary screenings, these people not only helped with a project in a physical sense, but also showed emotional support. Remove them from the equation, and History Day just got much harder. Here’s two thumbs up for the support squad! #squadgoals
What does it take to be a performer? Confidence, poise, creativity and talent, and all of our drama club members have that and more. Our 2016 performance crew wowed crowds all over College Park with productions about the Lindbergh Kidnapping, Challenger Space shuttle, Hip Hop Dance and more. Strom Norcross took home the bronze medal for his exciting performance about Industrial Unions, and CHOF took home a silver for their harrowing depiction of “No More Hiroshima”. The all-girls CHOF ensemble dazzled us with the “Exchanging Roles of Women in WWII” to bring home a bronze medal. We see Hollywood historians in all of our performers. Way to go, Drama Club!

Being a member of the A/V club is not for the faint of heart. Not only do you have to write a script after a ton of research, but you also have to deal with technology, which, face it, can be a nightmare. Our kids showed the computer who is boss and made documentaries that would rival any Hollywood film maker. We watched amazing cinematic masterpieces on topics ranging from Sir Francis Drake, United States v. Wong Kim Ark, Ralph Nader and Apollo-Soyuz. Congrats to all of our future documentarians!

This year, the Shop Class kids were challenged to take their board design to the next level. Taking their already great content, these construction experts took their knowledge of glue, foam core and double sided tape, and created History Day masterpieces. The Woodbury boys built a bank for their project on the “Bank War”, which took 3rd place, and the Duluth Marshall girls got as close as they could to building a rocket to fit with “The Challenger Disaster”. Other shop class creations included topics on “German POW’s,” “Rolling Stone Magazine,” two projects on DNA, the Special Olympics and the Chicano Movement. Congrats, you crafty, construction kids!
Our website squad rolled into National’s testing relief that they didn’t have to worry about bringing anything for their project with them. Mae Goodrich proved how photography can prove a point with her project on Gordon Parks, while our other senior individual website from Nicky Nosser wowed the judges on William Wilberforce. The junior individuals worked hard, with Sam Skinner earning 5th place for the “State of Minnesota vs. Philip Morris Inc.” and Anna Kronbeck earning 6th for her project on the WASP’s. Our group websites covered a wide variety of topics from the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial from the Mankato West girls, to Margaret Sanger from the OWL group of Freya Ebbeson and Isabella Graziani. Katie Nguyen and Anindita Rajamani from Capitol Hill studied Charles Darwin while the other OWL group of the Gardner twins took home the gold for their website on Jacques Cousteau. Awesome job, website techies!

This year’s paper writers took out their quills and made some magic happen with their final products! Claire Davis tackled early American history with her paper about the XYZ Affair, while Camryn Franke went even further back in time to talk about the Black Plague—won second place while she was at it! Our junior papers thoroughly explored the theme with papers on “Native Alaskans and Native People of the Pacific Coast” that earned 7th place for Gabe Chang-Deutsch, and “Vietnamese Immigrants in Minnesota” that earned 8th place for Noah Rice. Great job to all of our young writers this year!
NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS

Grace Gardner, Sovigne Gardner
Senior Group Website
1st Place

Camryn Franke
Senior Paper
2nd Place

Ryder Sitcawich, Roger Altman
Junior Group Exhibit
3rd Place

Strom Norcross
Junior Individual Performance
3rd Place

Cosette Isakson, Preston Alleman, Samuel Otten, Amari Piepkorn, Tessa Rohlf
Junior Group Performance
2nd Place

Ari Geerdes, Michaela Greenwood, Belinda Harms, Austyn Otten, Alyssa Schuett
Senior Group Performance
3rd Place