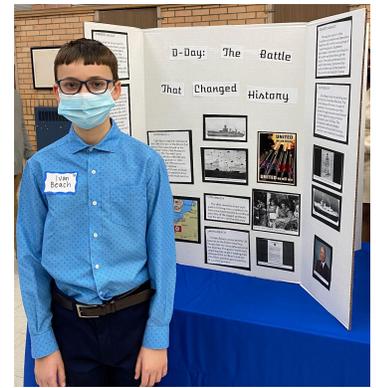
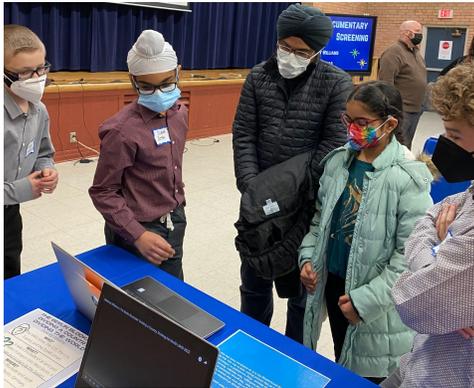


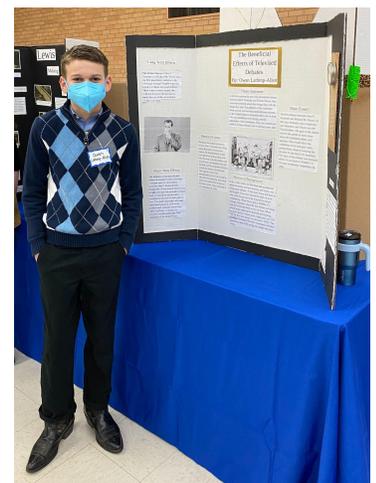


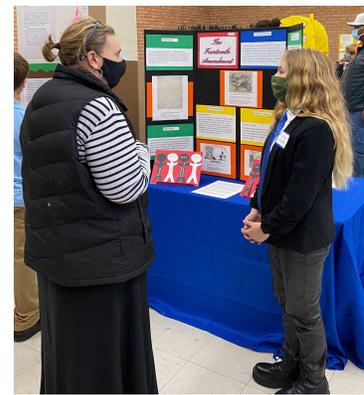
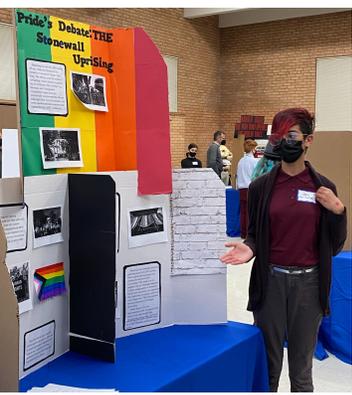
**28 January 2022: National History Day**



**Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences.** That is the theme for this year’s National History Day competition (NHD). As per usual, each year the work of students in research and discovery is framed within a historical theme. “The theme is chosen for broad application to world, national, or state history and its relevance to ancient history or the most recent past!” Students at Topeka Collegiate Middle School planned an impressive array of research-based projects that broadly stretched this theme.

The Assembly Hall was an active venue on the evening of Thursday, January 13, with the middle school students sharing their displays of research and information. Parents (as well as anyone from the community) were invited to view student work and visit with students about the research they had done over the course of the first semester. The evening also featured the student being interviewed by the judges of the projects. Students, dressed in their best attire, spoke about their experiences with the research, planning, and results of their projects, answering any questions posed by the judges.





The student-designed boards represented a dynamic range of topics and presentation modalities. NHD Rules govern the requirements and regulations of all student projects. There are five categories from which students may select for their entry; Documentary, Exhibit, Paper, Performance, and Website. Topeka Collegiate students are represented in all five of these. Three students presented their documentaries at scheduled times throughout the evening, with many of those in attendance stopping their viewing of other projects to watch. Those features included Eve Luea presenting "Brainwashed?: Susan Atkins (a Charles Manson follower); Delaney Williams's "The Berlin Blockade: Dividing a Country, Dividing the World"; and Ameira Thomas, whose topic was "The Patty Hearst Controversy."

Not all of the judging was completed on Thursday evening, so some students and judges reconvened Friday morning to finish that off. One student, Moxy Meyer, opted to create for the Performance Category. Her presentation was a script written and performed by her, and was titled "The Atomic Bomb: An Explosive Time in History." Only the judges and her teacher, Mrs. Hayley Smith, had the privilege of viewing her performance. For the District competition, her entry will be videotaped for submission, as this year the District Level of NHD will be virtual only.

The next phase of NHD is the aforementioned District Competition. It has been announced that this year this level will be virtual. However, they are not limiting the number of participants this year, so all Topeka Collegiate Middle School students will enter. Registration for the District Competition is due February 15, 2022, and these will all be done at the school with Mrs. Smith. Mrs. Smith deserves kudos for her approach to the National History Day competition, and her guidance and advice to all students on their research and projects was spectacular. Congrats to her and all the Topeka Collegiate Middle School students on another special National History Day and Showcase.



**Would you like to suggest a curriculum highlight?**

Email Academic Dean, Mr. Flax, at [mflax@topekacollegiate.org](mailto:mflax@topekacollegiate.org).