



Teenagers and US History—Growing Pains Everywhere

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In history class, we have travelled through time from post-Civil War, through the Gilded Age and Progressive Era this quarter, and now we find ourselves at the brink of World War I. The students have been doing a lot of reading and writing about the growing pains that the United States went through during these times. They have felt the pain of being a factory worker during the Gilded Age through an activity where students played the role of farmers or factory workers, while one lucky student in each session played the role of the boss, getting rich off of the hard work of his/her employees. As we moved into the Progressive Era, we learned about President Roosevelt's Square Deal, and many of the other changes that came during that era, which still impact our day to day lives today – over 100 years later!

In English, we focused first on a favorite song of each student and looked at how the structures of songs and poems are similar. In keeping with the course's title "Dissent In Literature" we looked at songs and poems from both the Vietnam War and the Gulf War, and analyzed each to decide if they were pro-war or anti-war sentiments within each. We discussed whether poets, musicians and entertainers should or should not express political opinions through their work. Students learned about common poetic devices and poetic styles, and each student wrote their own poems.

As we enter quarter four, we will be learning more about World War I and World War II in history, while beginning to learn about persuasive writing, and the role it played during war time. We have already begun discussing the role of propaganda, and students will be learning how to effectively write persuasive pamphlets, essays and speeches. I am looking forward to quarter four and continuing the great work that has been happening so far in 2019.

-Terrill Covey

Things I Wish They Had Taught in High School

Your students are also learning the ins and outs of personal finance. Did you know they understand the importance of a budget or how to write a check? As your students make preparations to finish school and head out on their own, these skills will help them navigate the world of business and money, knowing what is important in allocating enough funds to cover their anticipated expenses. In addition, we are exploring how savings and investments work in their favor, as well as getting an introduction to renting or buying a home or a vehicle. Last but not least will be a look at insurance and taxes.

"You're almost 22, you should have learned about taxes in high school."
First of all, the mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell.

In all, as challenging as some of these topics are for your students to consider, they are also quick to see how these skills and ideas will help them as they grow. Thank you for sharing them with me.

- David Tong

There's Science In My Kitchen?



Elephant toothpaste? Budgets? Slime? Checks? Polymer balls? These are all concepts and skills our students are learning as part of the third quarter STEM class.

In Applied Science, your students have been learning about the materials present in our world and how they react, combine, and reform into new substances. Elephant toothpaste, for example, is produced when hydrogen peroxide and dish soap is combined with active yeast. The yeast causes the peroxide to rapidly deteriorate and foam wildly out of the container.

Students have also seen how science is a common part of our everyday life. To demonstrate, students baked chocolate chip cookies and learned how the ingredients react together to produce a delicious treat.

-David Tong

SATs- Not What They Used To Be!

The SATs were first developed in the 1920s to standardize the college admissions process and later in the 1970s, were considered to predict college success. Over time, high school and college education has changed and the use of the SAT has changed along with them.

Now, the SATs are used across many states, including New Hampshire, as the high school level assessment to assess student progress across the state. Every student in New Hampshire is now required to take the SAT in the Spring of their Junior year. The good news- the state of New Hampshire pays for it! The bad news- it's still a very long and stressful day. Another thing that's different about the SATs is that many colleges don't even look at the SAT as a very important part of the student's application, whereas they were arguably the most important part just 15 years ago. Colleges are now more interested in students being well-rounded individuals with jobs, volunteer hours, unique interests and specialized skills.

I'd like to congratulate our Juniors on the completion of their SAT just a few weeks ago! They did a great job! If you have any questions about this newer process- please don't hesitate to reach out!

-Amanda

A Note From The Director:

Finally the winter has relinquished its grip on us! As a school we have spent more time and effort focusing on wellness and self-care by getting students outside walking and connecting to the surrounding communities. These experiences help students develop stronger relationships with each other, staff, and their school. While students at public schools have opportunities for dances, sporting events, and clubs, students at COA struggle to access these opportunities. COA students need positive experiences outside the classroom in order to develop their identity, confidence, and self-determination skills. We love spending time with our students and feel that a positive school culture is crucial to learning. We look forward to Quarter four and closing out the year successfully! As always I value your input so please feel free to contact me and let me know how we can better our service to you.

-Paul Newell

Students explore Marginal Way in York, Maine

