



## Four students compete at National History Day

Four GCCISD students recently competed and fared well in the National History Day contest in Washington, D.C. The Kenneth E. Behring National History Day contest took place June 10-14 on the campus of the University of Maryland.

The four-day contest, the largest ever in National History Day history, included 2,794 students and 1,691 entries, with students competing in individual and group exhibit, performance, documentary, website and paper categories.

The 2012 theme—Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History—was specially selected to provide students with the opportunity to think beyond the antiquated view of history as mere facts and dates, and drill down into historical content to develop perspective and understanding. More than 300 historians and other education professionals evaluated the projects from the junior and senior divisions.



[Photo gallery](#)

- Gentry Junior School student Matthew Broussard earned sixth place overall in the nation with his individual performance, “An Expression of the American Mind, A Written Revolution,” and won the State Affiliate award which means that he was the highest ranked Texas contender that did not place first, second or third.

A three-time state first place winner, this was Matthew’s third trip to the national competition. Matthew was the reigning national champion in this category, winning the Gold medal last year for his performance as Benjamin Franklin in “The Treaty of Paris: The Ultimate Game of Chess.”

This year, Matthew portrayed another Founding Father, Thomas Jefferson, who was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence and the third president of the United States.

- Sterling High School’s Cassadi Pape did not place this year, but received very high marks on her Individual Exhibit in the senior division (grades 9-12), titled, “Triangle Fire,” which is about the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire. (The fire was the deadliest industrial disaster in the history of the city of New York and resulted in the fourth highest loss of life from an industrial accident in U.S. history.)
- The Horace Mann Junior School team of Edna Mendez and Valeria Sixtos did not place in the junior division for their Group Website titled, “An Island’s Victory: The First Successful Slave Revolt.”

However, reports Taunya Breaux, Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator, they are extremely excited to get started on next year’s project.

Along with the competition the students enjoyed touring and sightseeing in Washington DC including viewing the Declaration of Independence, the American History Museum, Ford’s Theatre and the Lincoln Memorial to name a few.

“Overall the students had a wonderful trip and had a great experience competing in a national contest of this magnitude and are already starting preparations for next year’s competition,” said Mrs. Breaux.

National History Day, a 30-year-old academic program, engages more than half a million elementary and secondary school students across the nation each year.

Participants select a historical topic related to a theme, conduct extensive research and analysis to determine its significance in history and submit their work in an original paper, exhibit, performance, documentary or website.

Goose Creek CISD students always shine in the state competition and again this year walked away with several special awards as well as entry placements.

Entries placing first and second at the state competition move on to the national competition.

History fair participation is and has been a district initiative for pre-AP social studies in Goose Creek CISD for years, and the district’s track record at state and nationals is a source of community pride.

A recent study found students who participate in NHD develop a range of college and career-ready skills, and outperform their peers on state standardized tests in multiple subjects, including reading, science, math and social studies.

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