

TO ALL ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS/APS: 5th Grade American History Grant Professional Development
Category: For Your Information

Audience: Principals/APS (Elementary)

Due Date: Sep 25, 2009

Meeting Date: Oct 03, 2009

Master Calendar: [View Master Calendar](#)

Attachment(s): [Registration form TEACH AMERICAN HISTORY GRANT 5th grade cohort.pdf](#)

The Division of Social Sciences and Life Skills has received a new grant to provide professional development in American history beginning 2009-2010 school year. This grant specifically targets 5th grade elementary American history teachers.

Please note the following details regarding this professional development opportunity:

The USDOE has provided funding for M-DCPS Division of Social Sciences and Life Skills to provide professional development in American history to a cohort of 30 fifth grade elementary teachers per year. This is the first year of this grant.

The workshops consist of six Saturday sessions and a one-week summer institute. American history professors from Florida International University's Department of History will provide content instruction and FIU's College of Education will provide pedagogical assistance related to American history teaching strategies.

The TENTATIVE dates and topics of each Saturday workshop and the one-week summer institute (taking place summer 2010) are listed below:

- **Workshop #1: Saturday, October 3, 2009.** Essential Questions: What was life like for various groups of British colonial citizens prior to the American Revolution? Why did colonial Americans feel the need to separate from England and what were the major and most important aspects of the American Revolutionary War?
- **Workshop #2: Saturday, October 24, 2009.** Essential Questions: What were the major strengths and weaknesses the new American government had under the Articles of Confederation? How did our Founding Fathers, through the U.S. Constitution, propose to solve problems experienced under the Articles of Confederation and how did the new Constitution affect the average American citizen?
- **Workshop #3: Saturday, November 7, 2009.** Essential Questions: What were the major economic, political, and social ramifications of the Industrial Revolution? What factors contributed to the acquisition of new lands to the west and how did each acquisition affect the country as a whole?
- **Workshop #4: Saturday, December 5, 2009.** Essential Questions: How was the system of slavery that developed in the United States unique and how were those held in a state of servitude able to resist slavery and develop a unique culture based on African traditions? How can the Civil War be viewed as a step toward achieving the democratic ideals outlined in the U.S. Constitution and what were the major and most important aspects of the war?
- **Workshop #5: Saturday, January 9, 2010.** Essential Questions: What were the major causes and effects of World War I? How did the Jazz Age influence American society? What were the major causes and effects of the economic depression prior to World War II and how did World War II help develop American's "greatest generation?"

- **Workshop #6: Saturday, April 24, 2010.** Essential Questions: How did the ideological struggle evident during the Cold War lead to modern conflicts such as the Korean and Vietnam Wars? How have modern social movements affected American societies in terms of foreign policy, politics, and economic development?

Summer Institute: The five-day summer institute is designed to provide 5th grade teachers with a jump start for the planning of instruction for the upcoming school year. The tentative dates and topics for the summer institute are as follows: June 15-19, 2010:

- **Day #1:** Essential Question: How did each geographic area of the American colonies contribute to the independence movement?
- **Day #2:** Essential Questions: How was the concept of checks and balances essential to correcting problems that occurred under the Articles of Confederation?
- **Day #3:** Essential Question: What can be learned from primary sources about the experience of various peoples during the Civil War?
- **Day #4:** What were the causes and effects of the U.S. involvement in both the European and Asian campaigns during World War II?
- **Day #5:** What have been the leading contributing factors to recent changes in the make-up of the U.S. population and what have been the effects of said changes?

All workshop sessions will be held at FIU's main campus. The specific building and room number will be forwarded to participants at a later date.

In addition to the aforementioned workshops held at FIU, participants will also be trained and granted a perpetual license to use Learners Online Weblessons on American History, an online instructional tool designed to improve student knowledge of American history using online resources. Two additional workshop days will be held for instruction on how to use this valuable educational resource. The specific dates and locations for Weblessons training will be forwarded to participants at a later date.

Participants must also be willing to take teacher knowledge pre-and post tests and administer student pre- and post tests in order to track program impact and success.

Participating teachers MUST currently teach a 5th grade American history course.

Master Plan Points will be awarded to participants in the following manner: 60 Master Plan Points for completing the six Saturday workshops and 30 Master Plan Points for completing the summer institutes.

All participants are expected to complete both the Saturday workshops and the summer institute.

Participants will also be paid a \$100 stipend per Saturday workshop and \$100 stipend per day of the summer institute. If participants attend all training sessions, participants can earn \$1,100.00.

Teachers interested in participating in the Teaching American History Grant 5th Grade Teacher Cohort should complete the attached registration form and send it via FAX to Robert C. Brazofsky, Supervisor, Division of Social Sciences and Life Skills at 305 995-1492 by no later than Friday, September 25, 2009. Further logistical information will be forwarded to teachers who register after the registration deadline has expired.

If you have questions or need additional information, you may contact Robert C. Brazofsky via e-mail, rbrazofsky@dadeschools.net or see the contact information listed below.

Contact: Robert C. Brazofsky (305 995-1599)
Department: Division of Social Sciences and Life Skills