

WOKSAPE

“The Wise Book”

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National History Day Team Prepares For National Competition In June



BY
**MIKAYLA
SCHRODER**

National History Day is a nonprofit educational organization developed to encourage kids to become more involved and inspired by history.

Every state can compete in this competition and the best entries from each state are moved on to the national contest.

Seniors Adam Walter and Broc Mauch are currently preparing for their return to Washington, D.C. for the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day contest. This is the second year in a row they have qualified for Nationals.

Last year Adam, Broc, and Brad Ulmer worked together to make it to the national competition. The theme was “Rights and Responsibilities;” their exhibit was over Agent Orange and received fifth place overall in the contest.

The theme for the contest this year is Leadership and Legacy and they decided to



COURTESY PHOTO

Broc Mauch (left) and Adam Walter (right) are shown with their National History Day project. The duo is headed to the national competition next month.

do their exhibit over George C. Marshall. Mauch stated, “We started off the

year in hopes to return to Nationals and that hope has continued throughout this

whole process.” Their ultimate goal is to get first place, but regard-

less, they would like to be at least one of the top three place holders.

Mauch’s favorite part of preparation for their National History Day competitions has been becoming good friends with his teammate. “Adam and I have become closer friends because of NHD and I’ve really enjoyed working with him.”

Walter enjoyed the construction. “Building the exhibit and allowing myself to be creative in the building of it” was the best part of the contest for him.

Both Mauch and Walter have enjoyed the experience and are glad they have been presented with this opportunity for a second time.

Mr. Doug Haar has been mentor through this experience. He offers his help to each of his competing students to ensure they reach their full potential and have a fair chance of making it to Nationals.

Nationals will be June 14-18 at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Y’s Words On Politics



BY
**ZACH
LATTEA**

There are a few things you don’t bring up if you don’t wish to start an argument, and likely the most volatile of these issues is politics. Everyone has a point of view, and almost everyone thinks that they’re absolutely correct on the matter; if that’s the case, then who is truly right?

Well to begin, the idea that there can be only one answer to a question is entirely unfounded. Both sides of the aisle may have different points of view, but both also recognize that there are certain problems in our country that must be solved. The paths to these solutions are not built on the extreme tendencies of the far right or far left, but on compromise. Indeed as President Gerald Ford once said, “compromise is the oil that makes governments go.”

With Congress in a gridlock, the legislative process has come to a standstill. The idea of compromise doesn’t even grace the minds of many congressmen and congresswomen with its presence. Our government has stopped, halted entirely. The cause? Political infighting and increased levels of partisanship, extremism, and ideological bias have caused a great deal of harm to the American public as well, and it seems that we all aim to blame one another for these grievances, when truly, each one of us who supports any political extreme is at fault. Without a change in the American public, we can’t ever expect to see a change in congress.

What’s more, Politics often makes enemies out of friends, and pariahs out of family members, tearing apart the bonds we’ve all worked to craft over our lifetimes. As a nation, we need to learn to work together, support one another, and make decisions not only considering ourselves, but those around us, who perhaps lead a different life than you or I.

In the upcoming year and a half, leading up to the 2016 presidential election, politics is going to be a huge issue throughout America. Inform yourself about the candidates, but do so with a grain of salt, as oftentimes certain news sources and publications have their own political bias, and dish out seriously skewed reports. Be mindful, be wary, but be informed. Many people don’t involve themselves in politics because they think that politics doesn’t affect them or that they can’t make a difference and that’s just not true. Every part of every life in America is highly influenced, if not directly determined, by what goes on in the political realms of our communities, and our nation. In fact, a group of determined people can change the path of this country for the better.

Politics is incredibly important and cannot be an overlooked issue; that said, extremism on the issue is just as bad, if not worse. In the end, the takeaway is this: learn to compromise, be respectful of the political opinions of others, and be an informed voter. You can make a change.

SAT Test Has Undergone Changes



BY
**JOHANNA
LIPPERT**



For many, the SAT, or Standardized Achievement Test, brings to mind obscure vocabulary and complex math problems.

Many students, teachers, and leaders in education feel this test has historically not shown a thorough representation of student’s abilities as a whole. This has prompted the The College Board, the organization that administers the SAT, to revamp the test in an effort to “support college readiness and success for more students.”

The College Board hopes to make the content of the test more relevant to the content caught in the classroom.

In spring 2016, students across the nation will experience the new, redesigned SAT. In the revised test, students will be asked to not only give an answer, but also provide evidence. According to the College Board website, the test will also include “an essay prompt to analyze a writer’s argument, and multistep problems requiring them [students] to apply math in real world contexts.” The revised test will take three hours, with an additional 50 minutes given for the essay. The college board is also suggesting that rigorous classroom work, rather than studying vocabulary for hours on end, will be better preparation for this exam. Another notable difference is that the essay portion will be optional, much like the optional writing on the ACT. Furthermore, there will be changes to the scoring of the test, as the new range for scores will be 400-1600, and points will no longer be taken off for wrong answers given.

While many Yankton High School students choose not to take the SAT and instead take only the ACT, these changes will impact many students. In conjunction with the SAT changing, the PSAT, or Practice SAT, will be changing as well. While this test is only a practice for the SAT, it does have tremendous impact on students, as it is the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholar program, which could lead to scholarships for some students. These changes to the PSAT will be implemented in the Fall 2015 PSAT, in an effort to give students a chance to become acquainted with the changes.

Avery Brockberg and Lauryn Perk are both YHS sophomores and took the PSAT this year. They also plan on taking the revised PSAT next year. Avery Brockberg recalls his experience this year as being “boring and detached” from what he’s learned in the classroom, but concerning the new test he said, “I feel that this version of the PSAT will better help me prepare for the future.”

Perk has similar feelings, “I feel that many of the vocab words were things we had never discussed in the classroom before.”

Overall, it seems as if students look forward to this more holistic approach of testing.

Yankton’s 2015 Graduates Have Far-Reaching Plans For After Graduation That Will Take Them All Over The Map



BY
**MADISON
DANGLER**

NOTE: The following piece features a sampling of seniors who are branching out after graduation; it is by no means exhaustive.

As the school year is coming to a close, Yankton High School Seniors are working hard and staying on task with efforts to graduate and prepare themselves for their future after high school.

Many seniors have set their eyes on expanding their horizons and pursuing training and collegiate studies all across America.

Whether it is the Air Force, Yale, or the University of Hawaii at Manoa, the senior class of 2015 is branching out and working towards great achievements.

Alexa Bryan has chosen to pursue a Marine Biology Major at the University of Hawaii at Manoa this coming fall. Her inspiration to look into the University stemmed from her Sophomore Composition teacher Ms. Miner, who had studied at this university and shared her experiences of Hawaii with her students.

Hawaii will offer Bryan a change in venue as she continues her studies. She states that she is looking forward to the University of Hawaii for “the fact that it is a big city, and it has such a different culture. I think it would be fun to experience and learn about it.”

Bryan is a part of the Western Graduate Exchange which provides her with lower educational costs since Marine Biology is not offered in South Dakota, and she will ultimately

complete her studies in the Marine Biology field after five years of schooling.

Johanna Lippert is also looking at a change of venue while attending college. She is going to pursue an international studies major with interests in pre-law at Baylor in Wako, Texas. Baylor is the oldest school in Texas and is well established, which is one of the reasons Lippert is excited to join the school. She says that “they have had a really good time in growth and advancements” which will offer her a host of opportunities as she advances her studies.

Besides the educational opportunities, Lippert is looking forward to the advantages that the large cities around her campus have to offer such as artistic events, concerts, and various recreation activities.

Patrick Binder, attending Yale in the fall, will be pursuing an ethics, politics, and economics degree. While living on the east coast, he is looking forward to “being able to talk to people from all around the world and all around the nation” who may have similar interests.

At Yale there are numerous people who are interested in federal policy or have already been involved with it, and he is interested in getting to know various individuals from a variety of cultures and geographical locations.

Zach Lattea is pursuing a physics major from Columbia. Lattea commented that one of the reasons he chose Columbia was because of its high “focus on Math and Science.”

Lattea is looking forward to Columbia because of the cultural diversity which is not found as much in South Dakota as in other states

with larger cities. This prestigious school will offer him a plethora of educational opportunities and cultural diversity.

Kess Houck will be training with the Army upon the completion of the 2015 academic year. She says that her mom had been a large influence in her interest in the military along with the tuition incentive provided by the Armed Forces.

Houck hopes to become a surgical technician while in the military, and after her active duty, she hopes to continue her education and ultimately become a surgeon.

Nick LaFave has committed to the Air Force and will begin his Basic Military Training at the start of the summer. Nicks states that he “always wanted to go into the Air Force because [he’s] fascinated by aircrafts and how they work as well as the very strong financial incentives and very low time commitment while in college and in the workforce.”

LaFave has chosen the Aerospace Propulsion 2A6X1 career while in the Air Force. Once he completes his eight months of training, he intends to attend SDSU and pursue a degree in mechanical engineering.

These individuals, along with the rest of the class of 2015, have worked hard and remained focused in the academic setting for the past four years.

No matter what each graduate plans to do following graduation, they all have experienced the strong academic work ethic instilled in the students at Yankton High School. This work ethic will afford every graduating senior the opportunity for success in future endeavors.

Yankton High School Class of 2015 Graduation Week Schedule

**Baccalaureate
Wednesday, May 13
7 p.m.
YHS Theater**



**Graduation
Sunday, May 17
2 p.m.
YHS Gymnasium**

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