Dear Parents,

Julia Landon is taking a new approach to our participation in National History Day. The Social Studies department has reconfigured the requirements for participation at each grade level for this annual event. This is an attempt to give our students a richer and deeper understanding of the academic research experience. Our expectation is that by scaffolding the requirements for research and writing at each grade level, our students will be better equipped to participate in all forms of projects at a higher level. We find that most middle school students need a stronger foundation to tackle the analysis required for the NHD scope of work. Thus, we have layered the requirements for each grade levels.

Our differentiated approach to NHD begins at all grade levels as students develop research skills and apply them in a writing workshop focused on producing a product of which they can be proud. In sixth grade, students will apply their skills to produce a written report for Black History month in February. Seventh grade students will participate by writing a research paper similar to the one outlined by NHD but with modified requirements. A single topic for the paper will coincide with the social studies curriculum, giving students a controlled environment for learning the mechanics of effective writing and research. And finally, the eighth grade students will fully participate in the NHD event following all the rules and guidelines that are associated with the event. Participation in the History Fair at the eighth grade level holds a special ranking at JLCP as it will also serve as a capstone project for each JLCP eighth grader. Eighth grade participation in NHD is required, but it is optional for students in grades six and seven. The structural change to this endeavor is meant to ensure student achievement and success throughout their time at Julia Landon. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your child's Social Studies teacher. You can also access the History Fair link on your grade level webpage.

Respectfully,

Julia Landon Social Studies Department:
Bonnie England, Chair
Dana Long
Erin Conklin
John Buttiglieri
Sharon Thomas
Ronica Cormier