

# CIVIL WAR



**SCHOOLWIDE  
UNIT  
2009-2010**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The school-wide unit for the 2009-2010 school year is the American Civil War. Students and staff will spend the week of January 19<sup>th</sup> focusing on the Civil War. Teachers in all content areas will plan and implement lesson activities based on the central theme. Listed below are lesson activities listed for each department and school wide activities. We look forward to a great week!

## **SCHOOLWIDE ACTIVITIES**

### **School Field Trip: Gettysburg, PA**

As a culminating activity, all staff and students will participate in a school trip to Gettysburg, PA. Students will visit Little Round Top, Oak Hill, the Pennsylvania Monument, the Gettysburg Cemetery and the site of Pickett's Charge.

#### **Goals for PHMS School Trip to Gettysburg:**

- Students will become familiar with aspects of society in mid-19<sup>th</sup> century America
- Students will gain a deeper understanding of a critical battle during the U.S. Civil War
- Students will be able to compare and contrast decisions made by key military personnel during the battle of Gettysburg that would influence outcomes
- Students will analyze how physical geography influenced the outcome of the battle (i.e. Battle of Little Round Top, Cemetery Ridge, etc.)
- Students will compare and contrast the industrial strengths/weaknesses of the North and South
- Students will interpret how the outcome of the battle affected the course of the United States Civil War
- Students will analyze the Gettysburg Address in terms of its significance and timing
- Students will utilize photographic equipment to document key locations and provide an accurate description of place (one of the Five Themes of Geography)

**Tastes of the Civil War:** Metz Food Services will offer "North vs. South" menu items during the week of January 18<sup>th</sup>. The menu will include well known culinary delights of both the northern states and southern states.

## **DEPARTMENT LEVEL ACTIVITIES**

### **Reading Department**

The Reading Department will focus on the reading, discussion, and analysis of Gary Paulsen's novel, *Soldier's Heart*. Although a work of fiction, the novel is the story of Charley Goddard, a real soldier who enlisted in the First Minnesota Volunteers at the age of fifteen. At the Battle of Gettysburg, eighty-two percent of the First Minnesota Volunteers sustained injury or death, the highest single number of casualties in the battle. When our students visit the Gettysburg National Park, they will walk across the same field that Charley and his fellow soldiers crossed in the famous event, Pickett's Charge.

### **Language Arts Department**

#### ***Civil War - Photos Tell a Story***

The students will follow a lesson available online from the Library of Congress at the Mathew Brady Bunch web site. The lesson will explore the life and work of Mathew Brady and his crew of photographers. Together, they captured more than 1000 images of the Civil War. The students will select a photo from the collection and use a graphic organizer worksheet that accompanies this lesson to make objective and subjective observations about the photo. The students will combine their observations with their knowledge of the Civil War and other deductions they can make about the photo to create a news story based on the photograph.

## **Math Department**

### ***6<sup>th</sup> Grade***

Activities for the sixth grade will include math problems involving the Cost of War and other problems included in the “Money of the Civil War Primary Grade Lesson Plan”.

We will also examine a table from the website [www.civil-war.net](http://www.civil-war.net) that shows the Union--Troops Furnished and Deaths from various causes including war, disease, and accidents and answer various questions that can be answered from the table.

### ***7<sup>th</sup> Grade***

Students will be creating life size drawings used a scale model of a submarine that was used during the civil war. The link to the lesson the students will be using is:

<http://www.pbs.org/saf/1305/teaching/teaching.htm>.

### ***8<sup>th</sup> Grade***

8th graders will complete and NCTM activity called the Union Divided (Sept 2008). This activity asks students to take a look at the population of people that were involved with the war. This total population is broken down by fractions of different parts of the population. The activity also asks students to think about military units (ex. Corps, brigade, regiment) and their fractional components. Students will consider inflation over time compare prices using a price index. This activity is full of interesting civil war facts and allows room for discussion.

## **Social Studies Department**

Social Studies teachers will provide an overview of the Civil War including important people, events and topics from the time period. The overview will help students during all the class activities.

## **Science Department**

***Lesson Background:*** As the breeding ground for modern warfare, the Civil War has long been known for its “firsts.” It was credited with the invention and use of the periscope for trench warfare. A periscope uses mirrors to direct light around corners. Periscopes were important during the Civil War because they enabled soldiers to see above the trenches.

The study of light is cross curricular:

6<sup>th</sup> grade: the light spectrum

7<sup>th</sup> grade: microscopes

8<sup>th</sup> grade: telescopes

***Lesson Activity:*** During the Civil War unit, science classes will be reading an article on the importance of light, common sources of it, and how it is useful in the scientific community (i.e. periscopes, telescopes, microscopes, and the light spectrum). In order to understand refraction, students will engage in a hands-on experience. Each student will construct a periscope given a template and mirrors. Students will then be given an opportunity to use their periscopes just as the Civil War soldiers did.

## **Physical Education Department**

### ***Civil War (Fortress Ball)***

With this being the beginning of our Civil War unit we will be playing a game called fortress ball. There will be a North and South and we will build the many forts built back then. We will re-play the civil war in the present. Students will learn how to work together and keep their forts built-up and standing. Students will participate by trying to knock down the opposing teams forts. Your side wins when all opponent forts are knocked down

### **Computer Department**

With a little guidance from the teacher, the students will do some light online research about civil war-era photography. The students will have to find out what processes were involved with getting a print photograph produced back in those days. Each student will then create a small Prezi presentation explaining the process using a series of pictures and text (mainly pictures). Video of the “developing process” can be used (if available).

### **Art Department**

Students will view art and styles created in the Civil War era, students will learn about propaganda art and how it has been used throughout the ages specifically propaganda art created by both the Union and Confederate sides to promote their causes.

### **Music Department**

The Music Department will be performing various civil war melodies as well as arrangements of multiple melodies throughout the week in all of our classes. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade bands will perform a music selection from the time period. The performance will be recorded and aired during the morning newscast.

### **Applied Engineering and Technology**

For the Civil War Unit, the applied engineering and technology classes will be learning about the engineering and technology used during the civil war. Students will be introduced to different topics including the beginning of the Corps of Engineers at West Point. They will then split into groups to research civil war technologies. At the end, the class will come back together to report to each other their different findings.