

Urbandale Elementary TAG  
Urbandale Community Schools  
Urbandale, Iowa 50322

Dear Parent(s):

I am writing to inform you that after reviewing your child's ITBS scores and teacher recommendation, your student is invited to join the **talented and gifted social studies enrichment group** after school to explore how people, ideas and events take a stand in history.

How did Mahatma Gandhi take a stand for freedom through nonviolence? What does the United Nations represent? What do Quakers and hippies of the 1960s share in common? Students will discover the answers to these and other fascinating questions as they learn how to design their own National History Day exhibit or skit. The theme for this year is "Taking a Stand in History: People, Ideas, Events."

Students will spend 8 weeks:

- \* learning about the National History Day theme and choosing a topic
- \* discovering the difference between primary and secondary resources
- \* writing a letter requesting information from an outside source
- \* exploring their school library for resources
- \* discussing how to use the Internet as a research tool
- \* learning how to write a process paper and bibliography
- \* being introduced to basic performance skills
- \* understanding how to design an effective exhibit.

By the final week of class, students will have begun researching their topics. They will spend several months outside of class completing their research and designing their exhibit or skit. They may work alone, or with partners, on the project they will take to the Youth Division Event at the State Historical Society of Iowa on Monday, May 1. We'll meet one more time before the Youth Division Event, in case students, or their parent(s), have any questions. The NHD foundation would like one parent for every two students to help question the students about their displays or skits. If you are interested in traveling on the school buses to the Youth Division Event, please sign below.

#### WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW:

- This class requires a \$10 materials fee made out to Urbandale TAG for a workbook and the National History Day registration and all-day field trip to the State Historical Society of Iowa. The field trip includes your child's lunch and bus transportation.
- Parents need to arrange for students to visit the library and/or print materials found on the Internet.
- If your child works with one or more partners, you need to arrange meeting time outside of the school day.
- One parent volunteer for every 2 student participants is needed at the Youth Division Event at the State Historical Society, which will take place on Monday, May 1. We will need you all day.
- Access to a printer and computer is necessary. (Families without this equipment can visit the library.)
- **On December 8, at 3:00 PM**, a bus will take your student from his/her elementary school to the Urbandale High School PAC to work with a teacher from the Des Moines Playhouse on designing and performing a skit. **Please pick up your child at the PAC at 5:00 PM that day.**

We will meet after school from 3:35 to 4:30 p.m. on your school's assigned day of the six-day cycle.

Following are the assigned dates for your school:

Jen- Day A- 10/4, 10/20, 10/28, 11/28, **12/8 (PAC)**, 12/14, 4/25, **NHD 5/1/06**  
KA- Day B- 10/21, 10/28, 10/31, 11/16, 11/29, **12/8 (PAC)**, 12/15, 4/26, **NHD 5/1/06**  
Olm- Day C- 10/14, 10/24, 11/1, 11/9, 11/30, **12/8 (PAC)**, 12/16, 4/19, **NHD 5/1/06**  
Val- Day E- 10/18, 10/26, 11/3, 11/21, 12/2, **12/8 (PAC)**, 12/12, 4/21, **NHD 5/1/06**  
RG- Day F- 10/11, 10/19, 10/27, 11/14, 12/5, **12/8 (PAC)**, 12/13, 4/24, **NHD 5/1/06**

Your child will also need to have a ride home from school no later than 4:30 P.M. every assigned day. We will not meet on snow days. **Please sign and return the section enclosed by September 26, 2005, to indicate if you are, or are not, interested in having your student participate in the TAG social studies group.**

Sincerely,

Ms. Bethany Allison  
[allisonb@urbandale.k12.ia.us](mailto:allisonb@urbandale.k12.ia.us)

Ms. Julie Johnson  
[johnsonj@urbandale.k12.ia.us](mailto:johnsonj@urbandale.k12.ia.us)

Mrs. Judy Nolan  
[judynolan@aol.com](mailto:judynolan@aol.com)

---

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like my child to participate in the Social Studies enrichment group after school from 3:35 - 4:30 p.m. I am enclosing the \$10.00 materials fee made out to Urbandale TAG Department.

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to be a parent volunteer at the Youth Division Event at the State Historical Building on May 1, and I will be riding the bus to the event.

\_\_\_\_ No, I would not like my child to participate in the Social Studies enrichment group after school from 3:35 - 4:30 p.m.

Your child's name \_\_\_\_\_ school \_\_\_\_\_ grade \_\_\_\_\_

Your e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_