

The Public Schools of Metuchen
2014-2015

MetucheNJ350
Service Learning Committee

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English/Language Arts, Social Studies, ESL

Goals of the MetucheNJ350 Service Learning Committee

Goals for the students of the Metuchen Public Schools:

1. To honor the 350th year of New Jersey's existence by recognizing the distinguished citizens of Metuchen with the compilation of an Oral History
2. To showcase the MetucheNJ 350 Oral History at the *Metuchen Mobile Museum*, June, 2015
3. To share our students' findings with the State of New Jersey:
<http://officialnj350.com/submit-a-new-jersey-event/>

*“...inquiry-based, experiential learning tasks and activities to help all students deepen their understanding of what they are learning and why they are learning it **through NJ350.**”* -Vincent Caputo

MetuchenNJ 350 Oral History Project

Setting a Purpose



In commemoration of New Jersey's 350 birthday, the students of the Metuchen Public Schools will engage in an ongoing endeavor to compile an oral history. This oral history will chronicle the experiences of residences, civil servants, merchants, and other distinguished members of the community. The intent is to provide students with a deeper understanding of the social, political, and economic forces which have shaped this community's rich history.



Mission Statement

The *MetucheNJ350 Oral History Project* aims to provide students with authentic learning through active participation in:

- unique research opportunities
- responsible and productive citizenship
- showcases of community pride



Instructional Implications

New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for Social Studies Kindergarten – Grade 12

6.1 U.S. History: America in the World

6.3 Active Citizenship in the 21st Century

Essential Question: What are effective strategies for accessing various sources of information and historical evidence, determining validity, and using them to solve a problem or find a solution to a public policy question?

NJCCCS-SS Skills Table: Chronological Thinking, Spatial Thinking, Critical Thinking, and Presentational Skills

Common Core State Standards for History and Social Studies, Grades 6-12

Reading Information:

Key Ideas and Details

Craft and Structure

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Range of Reading and Text Complexity

Writing:

Text Types and Purposes

Production and Distribution of Writing

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

Best Practices: Compiling an Oral History

Considerations:

Approach

1. Life history of individuals
2. Clusters of people, recalling similar event, circumstance, era
3. Blended approach

Subject Selection

1. What forces have shaped the community?
2. Who can speak to those forces (dignitaries versus average citizens)?
3. What do we know? What questions remain unanswered?

Interview Formats

1. Life-review (single narrator)
2. Topic-oriented (single or multiple narrators)

Instructional Procedure

1. Establish purpose of Oral History as a means of research
2. Administer *Preliminary Questionnaire*
3. Generate questions based on responses
4. Conduct interviews
5. Document and share learning

Dr. Scott Cowen, President, Tulane University
Mrs. Valera and Mrs. Gubernaut's Third Grade Class



Showcase of the *MetucheNJ350 Oral History Project*



We invite you to join us in celebrating

The MetucheNJ350 Oral History Opening Night Showcase

At this event, the students of the Metuchen Public Schools will provide you with a compiled oral history that chronicles the experiences of residents, civil servants, merchants, and other distinguished members of the community who have shaped

Metuchen's rich history.

Thursday, June 4, 2015

6:00 P.M.

The Metuchen Public Library: The Library Gallery

480 Middlesex Avenue

Metuchen, NJ 08840

R.S.V.P. by Monday, May 18, 2015

To Dr. Tiffany Jacobson:

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Metuchen Public Schools

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Next Steps...

- District *Oral History* webpage
- Embedded opportunities for service learning into the Social Studies Curriculum
- Expand Oral History Project beyond the Metuchen Community