

SCHOLARSHIP, CITIZENSHIP, AND

HOPE

GCSS STATE SOCIAL STUDIES FAIR 2020

Good morning social studies fair students!

How's Your P.M.A.?!!!

Those of you who have been to a state social studies fair before know that P.M.A. stands for POSITIVE MENTAL ATTITUDE, and those students, parents, and teachers who subscribe to the idea respond with a resounding, “Boy, Am I Enthusiastic!” Each of you are one of us now, with the possibility of winning one or more of the top awards—or just getting the most out of the experience. Everytime you see the logo above, run that BAIE! phrase through your mind and keep moving toward your goal!

Despite the obstacles we are experiencing this year, the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Council for the Social Studies and your school sytem social studies coordinators are “all in” for giving you the opportunity to complete your social studies fair project journey and to be recognized for your hard work. They have worked hard to make this possible.

The judges are very disappointed that they will not interact with you in person, but we decided that, to be fair to those who may not have the latest in technology, we would use formats that are widely used and, hopefully, available to all through family members, teachers, or school online resources.

The **directions for submitting your project online** are on another document posted on the www.gcss.net website. Your teachers, parents, and siblings may help you with the technology if you do not have it or haven't been trained in it. You will be judged on what the judges can see in clear and legible photos of the visual/display you created (not on the sophistication of your power point).

You will need to follow the directions and submit the components to your directing teacher in an email. Your **directing teacher will review and submit** an email with all the components the judges need to a special email by **April 24**. The deadline will give you and/or your teacher time to take a Spring Break away from schoolwork, if that is what your school system has scheduled, and still have time for your teacher to make sure she/he has everything from you to submit. Direct submissions to the state fair email address by students or parents will not be accepted.

The first judging of the projects will take place April 27-May 1. If all judges complete their judging on schedule, we will announce the winners the weekend of May 2-3. There will be more later on the www.gcass.net website as to how to access winner information.

We plan to mail your t-shirt, certificate, and state finalist ribbons, as well as other awards you earn at state, to your teacher at the school to be picked up as it becomes safe to do so. There are business and factories that produce the t-shirts and other awards that are closed, making some of those items unavailable for awhile, so please know that we will get them out as soon as possible and will mail the items for each student in one mailing.

Renee Martin, an educational consultant from Athens, whose day job is working for a RESA, will be checking all the documents as they come in to the special email address to make sure the judges have everything they need, coordinating the collection of score sheets, and ranking the scores for awards.

We are all in the middle of a huge adjustment to our time, priorities, and the way we have done things in the past. Hopefully, we will come out better for it.

Thank you for being good citizens and doing the things that are recommended for taking care of yourselves and others. You are student leaders, and many are looking at your example .

The teachers and other social studies leaders of GCSS are proud to provide the scaffolding for you to become effective leaders in your adult lives. Your projects are part of that scaffolding.

Good luck as you get things in order for this online competition. We're looking forward, once again, to being WOWED by your accomplishments.

Sharon Coleman
GCSS State Social Studies Fair Coordinator