

# Nysmith



Dear Nysmith Community,

We have some exciting news to share with you! **234 Nysmith students (or roughly 40% of the student body), have qualified, individually, for this year's Regional History Bee competition. That's double the number that qualified last year, making 2019 a record-breaking year for Nysmith School!** These students will go on to compete in the regional tournament taking place this Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at Thomas Jefferson High School.

The National History Bee and Bowl are buzzer-based history quiz competitions for primary and secondary school-aged children throughout the United States (the Bee tests individual contestants versus the Bowl which is a group competition). There are three phases of the Bee competition. The first phase is a 50 question, timed, multiple choice quiz that asks questions from all periods of history and all areas of the world, including the United States. The second stage moves onto regional finals where students will participate in 3 rounds of buzzer-based play in preliminaries, and 1 round in the Finals. The top students in each age division make the finals. Approximately the top 50% in each age division will qualify for Nationals—the last phase of the competition.

So what makes so many Nysmith students so passionate about history? According to History Bee and History Club sponsor and Nysmith teacher, Philip Baselice, it's a combination of student interest and the right support. "In class we tend to go more in-depth into historical events and topics. If students are interested in learning more, we go deeper," says Baselice. "By the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, we are mirroring a lot of what the History Bee is looking for." In addition, Baselice and fellow teacher Brian Schrembs sponsor a History Club that meets for one hour, once a week. The History Club has up to 20 students signed up each year and serves as more of a preparation for the competition,

complete with timers and buzzers.

We'd like to congratulate all of the students who participated in the History Bee exam and we wish the best of luck to our students who are moving on to the Regional tournament this weekend!