

Homer-Center students in Mrs. Christine Yurky's 8<sup>th</sup> Grade History and Geography classes have recently proven they know a lot about the past. Students from Homer-Center High School recently participated in the National History Bee. At our local competition Nick Silveri and Ben Wolford were the champion and runner –up respectively. Both earned the right to travel to Spring Grove to participate in the regional finals. Nick won the regional championship match 6-1 and, as the champion, he qualified to compete at the History Bee National Championship May 12<sup>th</sup> in Washington D.C. The event is sponsored by the History Channel and will be televised.

Mrs. Yurky explained that through our participation in the History Bee, Homer-Center was invited to participate in the Regional History Bowl. “The History Bowl team did very well, and were undefeated in the preliminary rounds,” she said. Homer-Center’s team comprised of all 8<sup>th</sup> graders finished second overall losing to Wilmington Charter School the defending J.V. National Champions with a team comprised of sophomores. Homer-Center still earned a berth in the National Championships and will compete in the Middle School Division.

The History Bowl team consisting of Ben Wolford, Nick Silveri, Jacob Hurd, Rick Orr, and Stephen Novak are excited to be competing on the national level. When asked how they got involved, Jacob said, “I have always liked history, so when Mrs. Yurky asked [if I wanted to be involved] I said yes.” Stephen and Rick both competed in Homer-Center’s History Bee, so they have some prior experience. When asked what the experience is like and how they prepare, Rick Orr said, “The experience is awesome. It definitely expands your knowledge. I am preparing by studying one specific topic, so when the team comes together, we each know a certain section of the questions.” All the boys said they enjoy competing because, as Rick Orr said, “I enjoy going to these competitions because I get to travel to new places and see new things, and I enjoy learning history.”

When asked what they are looking forward to the most at the national competition all the students mentioned making new friends, seeing new things and the experience. Jacob does not know exactly what he will do in the nation’s capital, but he knows it will be a lot of fun. Rick would like to visit Mt. Vernon, the Smithsonian, and walk along the National Mall. All in all, the students are going to have a blast learning more about history and representing Homer-Center in the National History Bowl.



By: Sarah Henry and Evan Bellas