New Jersey Italian Heritage Commission

Division of Legal and External Services

May 3, 2023
Mission and Goals

• The primary mission of the New Jersey Italian Heritage Commission is to promote education in the State of New Jersey.
  • Coordinate with NJ school superintendents and public organizations
  • Compose, distribute, and promote the implementation of lessons on history and culture that is age appropriate in grades K-12
  • Provide programs, and facilitate events that will provide awareness and guidance on the positive achievements and contributions of Italians and Italian Americans
Curriculum

• The New Jersey Italian Heritage Commission instituted a transition program in 2020 converting the ‘Universality of Italian Heritage’ curriculum lessons into video and PowerPoint presentations starting with an Italian’s Dream, which encompasses several existing lessons in a four-part series:

  • The Venetian Spice Monopoly
  • The Man Who Changed the World, Christopher Columbus
  • The Origins of the Hispanic Peoples
  • Immigration
• Italians and the Holocaust video was developed in cooperation and consultation with the New Jersey Office of Holocaust Commission. This is a five-part series:

  • Italians and the Holocaust - Background
  
  • Pope Pius XI, Mussolini, and Hitler
  
  • The Holocaust
  
  • The Pope Works to Protect Jews from Nazi Atrocities while Protecting Catholics from Fascists, Nazis, and Bolsheviks
  
  • Soviet Spies and Propaganda
Upcoming & Ongoing Projects

• Updating the website www.NJItalianHeritage.org to include the latest videos and presentations

• Continuation of transitioning lessons.
  - Upcoming is Italy / Roman Influence of the Creation of the American Republic

• Scheduling a Professional Development Day for October

• Conducting a survey of NJ Teachers for input on the curriculum
Thank You!

New Jersey Italian Heritage Commission: NJItalianHeritage.org

New Jersey Department of Education: nj.gov/education

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