**Welcome to the Exemplary Veterans Recognition Program!**

Public Act No. 16-188 [https://www.cga.ct.gov/2016/ACT/pa/2016PA-](https://www.cga.ct.gov/2016/ACT/pa/2016PA-00188-R00SB-00179-PA.htm)

[00188-R00SB-00179-PA.htm](https://www.cga.ct.gov/2016/ACT/pa/2016PA-00188-R00SB-00179-PA.htm)

The legislation cited above states that the Connecticut Department of Education, in consultation with the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs, will establish a recognition program for schools that do an exemplary job of teaching about veterans and their contributions to American society.

We hope that elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools will decide to participate in this program. The rubric for the program follows; as you can see, schools can be recognized by activities that take place in classes, after school, and at public programs. We know that many schools do outstanding programs for Veterans Day and Memorial Day; this program encourages schools to continue to sponsor those programs, but also to teach about the contributions of veterans throughout the year and in various classes and activities within the school. We also STRONGLY advise you and your school be in contact with local veterans’ organizations that exist in your community (a list of contacts will follow). These organizations can provide speakers and other ideas that will strengthen the celebration of veterans that you will want to sponsor.

We hope that you and your school will want to celebrate the contribution of veterans throughout the school year and be recognized for it through this program. A ceremony will take place in the fall of each year; at this event, all schools participating in this program will be recognized. If you have questions or concerns about this program please contact Stephen Armstrong, Connecticut Department of Education Social Studies Consultant at Stephen.Armstrong@ct.gov or at (860) 713-6706.

**What is Remembering Our Heroes?**

* An educational recognition available to all of Connecticut’s K 12 schools
* A collaboration between the State Department of Education and the Department of Veterans Affairs
* Initiated by the passing of ***Public Act No. 16-188*** *(July*  *2016),* requiring the SBE (with the DVA)

– to award an exemplary veterans education program distinction to boards of education that offer programs providing students with opportunities to learn about veterans' contributions or collaborate with local veterans organizations through classes extracurricular activities, presentations, or symposiums, among other things.

**Timeline**

* October 2022: Award ceremony for 2022 recognition schools;

2023 Remembering Our Heroes program formally announced

* October 2022 – May 2023: Students, teachers, and schools work on program submissions
* June 2023: Submission Deadline
* July/August 2023: Selection committee reviews submissions
* September 2023: Awards ceremony for 2023 recognition schools

**Qualification Criteria**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | K-4 | 5-8 | 9-12 |
| Effective and innovative teaching of veterans’ contributions |  |  |  |
| Interdisciplinary connections |  |  |  |
| Speakers/ materials from veterans’ groups |  |  |  |
| Student-led community celebrations |  |  |  |
| Potential impact beyond the classroom |  |  |  |

**What is required to be recognized for Remembering Our Heroes?**

* Slightly different criteria for elementary, middle, and high schools
* For further details, please refer to the rubrics also located on this site

**Examples for teaching of contributions**

* Veterans’ issues in various eras
* War and peacetime experiences
* Role of non-combat veterans
* Veterans organizations

**Examples for interdisciplinary connections**

• English/Language Arts-literature and personal records of veterans’ experiences

• Math-analyzing statistics of war and peacetime events • Science-technology and/or scientific innovations evolved from military needs

• Geography-mapping the military (in war and peacetime)

• Fine arts-art and music of military engagements

**Examples for integrating veterans’ groups**

• Veterans speak to classes

• Veterans work with students on remembrance projects

• Pen pal letters to current service people or veterans

**What we need from you**

* Create partnerships between your schools and local Veteran organizations such as VFWs or the American Legion
* Share details of the program with your mailing lists, through your newsletter, with your email subscribers and at community events
* Help defray minor costs including school recognitions and the 2022 concluding event

**For more information, contact:**

* Tammy Perdue Marzik [tammy.marzik@ct.gov](mailto:tammy.marzik@ct.gov) (Office of the Commissioner for the CT Department of Veteran’s Affairs)
* Stephen Armstrong [stephen.armstrong@ct.gov](mailto:stephen.armstrong@ct.gov) (Social Studies Consultant for the State Department of Education)
* Amina Feratovic [amina.feratovic@ct.gov](mailto:amina.feratovic@ct.gov) (Social Studies Intern for the State Department of Education)

REMEMBERING OUR HEROES:   
SCHOOL RECOGNITION APPLICATION

ADDRESS TO:

Amina Feratovic

Social Studies Intern

Academic Office/ Connecticut State Department of Education

450 Columbus Blvd.

Hartford, CT 06103

**Remembering Our Heroes-**

**Teaching about Veterans School**

**Recognition Application**

*Sponsored by the Connecticut Department of*

*Veterans Affairs and the Connecticut State Department of Education*

To be considered for recognition, a completed application and all supporting materials must be postmarked by **June 12, 2023**. For questions about and submitting course material to Remembering Our Heroes, please email: Amina Feratovic (Social Studies Intern CSDE) at Amina.Feratovic@ct.gov.

**PART 1: Applicant Information**

Name of Applicant\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School District\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

School\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grades Participating K**-4 5-8 9-12**

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

School Address

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**PART 2: Description of Program**

Please provide a description of the activities you have conducted that are eligible for recognition. The narrative and evidence should illustrate how your project meets the criteria as described in the project rubric, and should include:

* The number of teachers and students involved and duration of project
* An outline of the topics/activities conducted throughout the year • A description of the roles that members of the school and veterans community held for the various activities
* A description of the culminating events
* Pictures, project links, media stories, videos, and any samples of products created

**PART 3: Distinguished Service Award Nomination (Optional)**

Name of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Educator** **Student** **Veteran**

Please provide a brief explanation of what this person has done to enhance people’s awareness of veterans’ issues. This narrative should include:

* Background of person
* Role in the program/activities discussed in PART 2
* Impact this person has had on others regarding awareness of veterans’ issues

Please type or write in the text box below.

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*This application (and all supporting materials) is submitted with the understanding that submissions may be used in future publications as models for other districts as they plan their programs.*

REMEMBERING OUR HEROES:

RUBRIC FOR SCHOOL RECOGNITION

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | **4.** | **3.** | **2.** | **1.** | **Not Present** |
| Effective and innovative teaching of veterans and veterans’ contributions (the teaching does not have to occur in a Social Studies class, especially at the elementary level; however, it is expected that secondary schools integrate these discussions in their Social Studies courses)  K-12: 20% | The Teaching of veteran related topics is integrated throughout the curriculum. Veterans’ issues are explored in various eras and include discussions of war and peacetime experiences. Possible topics include:  Service people who did not go overseas, those who served in non-combat roles, support for veterans’. | The teaching of veteran-related topics is more in-depth. During wartime lessons, veterans’ contributions beyond the battlefield are discussed and students will explore similarities and differences in their experiences over time. | The teaching of veteran related topics is confined to wartime and immediate post-war experiences. The focus may be on more statistical information and their importance in regard to major events. | The teaching of veteran- related topics lacks depth and is confined to discussions centered on Veterans Day and Memorial Day. |  |
| **Interdisciplinary connections are made between Social Studies and ELA, and other disciplines as appropriate**  **K-5: 30%**  **6-12: 10%** | Analyzing statistics of various war and peacetime events, Science classes exploring the technology and scientific innovation that evolve from military needs, fine arts classes discussing the art and music of various military engagements. | Fiction, nonfiction literature and poetry that explore the experiences of veteran at various points in American history. They analyze the reading (appropriate by grade-level) and compare what the fictional accounts with real exper-iences. They write a variety of pieces, including narrative and expository pieces. | Connections are present for various topics throughout the course. | Disciplines demonstrated. |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | 4. | 3. | 2. | 1. | **Not Present** |
| **Speakers and/or materials from veterans’ groups and other community groups are integrated into the teaching process**  **K-12: 20%** | Speakers and/or materials from veterans’ groups are presented to the larger student body at various points throughout the year. This might include all US History students hearing speakers, all US teachers conducting an interactive activity that extends beyond the textbook. For Veterans’ Day and/or Memorial Day, speakers and materials are available to the entire student body for a variety of activities. | Speakers and/or materials from veterans’ groups are integrated into the curriculum throughout the year. The teacher might invite other classes to hear the speakers, especially for Veterans’ Day and Memorial Day. | Speakers and/or materials from veterans’ groups are integrated into the curriculum at points where wars are discussed, as well as for Veterans’ Day and Memorial Day. These resources remain limited to the teacher’s class. | Speakers and/or materials from veterans’ groups are used for Veterans Day and/or Memorial Day. |  |
| **Student-led town/city activities are organized to introduce (Veterans Day) and culminate (Memorial Day) the teaching of veterans’ issues at the school**    **K-5: 10%**    **6-12: 30%** | The majority of students in the grade/course are active participants in the planning of the events (with the adult guidance) and the actual events, and community members are also active participants. The entire student body has the ability to participate in the activities, either as viewers or active participants. The planned activities may vary by grade or course. | The planning (with adult guidance) is primarily conducted by one class, though the event might be presented to the entire school. Community members are invited to participate in the planning /activities. | Students and town/city members have minimal role in the planning of the activities, thought students might be more active during the event itself. | The town/city activities, restricted to Veterans’ Day and/or Memorial Day, are organized primarily by adults, with little active role by the students during the event. The Events may be attended by students other than the class of the organizing adult. The town/city’s role is minimal in the planning and/or celebration |  |
| **The potential impact of the program extends beyond the classroom**  **K- 12 20%** | Students attend a school-wide program, participate in a reflective activity, and engage in a conversation to plan for long-lasting partnerships with local veterans’ groups. | Students attend a school-wide program, participate in a reflective activity, and engage in follow-up activities that focus on veterans’ issues. | Students attend a school-wide program and participate in a reflective activity. | Students attend a school-wide program. |  |

REMEBERING OUR HEROES

LESSON PLANS

**Veterans Day Lesson Plans**

Potential challenges when teaching about Veterans Day: Veterans Day is a sensitive subject for many students because of their families or friends involvement in the military. Additionally, due to the nature of violence in warfare approach the discussion with caution and only discuss material that is appropriate to the age category being taught.

Option 1

• Age Group: Middle School and High school

• Time: 45 Minutes

• Schedule:

* Fill out Veterans Day quiz prior to watching movie.
* Watch film: “Bet You Didn’t Know – Veterans Day”.
* Fill out Veterans Day quiz again to compare learning before and after the film.

• More information / Film link:

* http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/lessons\_plans/veterans-day/

Option 2

• Age Group: All (different lesson plans for each age group)

• Time: Varies (depends on how many activities teachers choose to include)

• Schedule:

K-2:

Read picture books mentioned in the link below.

* Download Veteran coloring pages from National Education Association (ex: uniform design or poppy flower).
* Sing songs that express patriotism (ex: My Country Tis of Thee, Grand
* Ol’ Flag, Star Spangled Banner, I’m Proud to be an American).
* 3-5
* Crossword puzzle.
* Reading comprehension (download from http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/veterans-day-activities-intro.html).
* Ask students to write similes describing photos of Veterans or Soldiers, ask them to write about what they think the Veteran is feeling.

6-8:

* Explore contributions of the Women’s Airforce in World War 2 with “Fly Girls” lesson.
* Look at and analyze Winslow Homer’s 1865 painting “A Veteran in a New Field”.

9-12:

* Discuss the Normandy Invasion and the cooperation it took to complete it and the psychological costs.
* Look at and analyze Winslow Homer’s 1865 painting “A Veteran in a New Field”.

Other Useful Links:

* Online scavenger hunt regarding the Vietnam War.
* Research the perspective and role of one group (ex: nurses, soldiers, journalists, photographers) and meet up as a class to share information and new learning.
* This website has good coloring page printouts and art projects.  
  + <http://lessonplanspage.com/veteransday-htm/>
  + This website is a good resource for Veterans Day activities grades 3-5.
  + https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/collections/teachingcontent/veterans-day/

This website provides a teacher’s guide to discussing Veterans Day and some background knowledge on the holiday.

* https://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/docs/2011\_veterans\_day\_teache r\_guide.pdf

Suggested Videos:

* 15 Minute Tribute (good for high school).
  + https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QA1GF9dlXJw
* Duration: 15:00 Minutes
* ESPN Tribute to Veterans Returning Home and Surprising their Families (potentially sensitive or tear revoking material for students with family members in active duty, good for middle school or high school).
  + https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CcLj4wQXWQ

* Duration: 6:42 Minutes
* History of Veterans Day, produced by the History Channel (one image of depicting minor injury and blood ( good for middle school or high school).
  + https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymCa1eB\_qLA

* Duration: 3:28 Minutes
* Cartoon Fun Facts Video (appropriate for grades 3-5, could be used for younger grades but they might not fully comprehend it).
  + https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxVs4B9M9Ec
  + Cartoon Video on the History of Veterans Day (good for grades K-5).
  + https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GvEK83TLjM&index=3&list=PLjnL2NSDUI6bE1ibz Uj3zWToyVd3UGYXh

Concluding Ideas for Suggested Veterans Day Lesson:

• K-1: Introduction, Patriotic Songs, Coloring pages, Video, Discussion(less discussion of wars and more discussion about honoring veterans, teacher led and moderated).

• 3-5: Introduction, Video, Crossword Puzzles, Poetry Writing, Reading Comprehension, Discussion (less discussion of wars and more discussion about honoring veterans, teacher led and moderated).

• 6-8: Introduction, Reading Comprehension, Video, Analyzing Art, Discussion (student led, teacher assistance and moderating).

• 9-12: Video, Analyzing Art, Discussion (student led, teacher assistance and moderating).

Discussion Starters:

Elementary Classroom:

* Ask the students why they think we acknowledge Veterans Day. Why is it important? What does the word 'veteran' mean?
* Inquire if any students have any relatives or acquaintances that are veterans. Have they heard any first-person stories about wartime?
* Give the students a chance to talk about any family members who are serving our country currently. Emphasize that they are heroes who will be honored during future Veterans Day celebrations after finishing their service.

Source: https://www.thoughtco.com/veterans-day-lessons-2081095

Middle School Classroom:

* Tell the students Veterans Day is about honor, can they think of ways they can honor the Veterans?
* Challenge students to discuss what they believe the difference is between Memorial Day and Veterans Day. (Memorial Day is to honor those who died in combat or from injuries sustained from combat, while Veterans Day honors those who served in the military during peacetime or wartime who are alive or passed away from non-service related injuries.)
* Ask students to share any personal stories about family members or friends in the military if they are comfortable discussing it?

High School Classroom:

* Discuss ways to volunteer or honor military men and women, ask students if they have any ideas?
* Challenge students to discuss what they believe the difference is between Memorial Day and Veterans Day? (Memorial Day is to honor those who died in combat or from injuries sustained from combat, while Veterans Day honors those who served in the military during peacetime or wartime who are alive or passed away from non-service related injuries)
* Allow open discussion of the topic (any facts, ideas, or stories about the holiday)
* Discuss terminology for the different branches of the military. Allow students to make groups and do their own research.

* “Soldiers” cannot be used to define everyone in the military, soldiers are the people who are in the Army
* Sailors are people in the Navy
* Airmen are people in the Air force
* Marines are people in the Marine
* Troops can be used to discuss a group of armed service men and women
* Armed Services / Service Men and Women can describe all the people defending our country, by using the term “active” or “veteran” it can be established whether they are serving now or served previously

(A quiz on these terms could be created to test the students’ knowledge)