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*“History is merely a list of surprises. It can only prepare us to be surprised yet again.”* - Kurt Vonnegut

COVID 19 UPDATE

We at California Weekly Explorer understand that the continued closures of schools is a very difficult and trying time for our families and for those of you who give tirelessly to provide a valuable learning experience to children. We have greatly missed being able to provide the Walk Through experience for you and your students. Though we all long to have this in the past and be together once again, we continue to hope for the safety and wellness of each of you - our teachers, students, and families.

As we look with hope toward the future, we wanted to lay out our plans for how we are able to conduct in-person Walk Through presentations to meet the requirements of your school for students and staff who are back on campus. As always, the safety of students, school staff, and our presenters will be of utmost importance. The measures addressed below can be adjusted depending on the unique situation of each school and in consideration of the most recent guidelines provided by the CDC. Please contact our office with any questions or adjustment requests.

Since the Walk Throughs consist of only one presenter conducting the presentation for one group of students we are able to remain compliant with the Center of Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines for social distancing and for the prevention of the spread of coronavirus. We have implemented important changes and modifications to our presentations to ensure the safety of everyone, children and adults alike, during an in-person live experience. The steps California Weekly Explorer is taking are outlined below and can be accessed by clicking on each link.

All Presentations

We are reminding our employees about frequent hand washing and are providing sanitizing cleaners for the regular cleaning and disinfecting of all presentation equipment. Most importantly, we are asking our presenters to stay home from work if they feel sick and to quarantine for 14 days. This could mean a last minute cancellation of a presentation. If so, we will do our best to re-schedule within a decent timeframe.

* The room utilized must be large enough to provide a distance of 6 feet between the presenter and students at all times. We will consider allowing the presentation to take place outdoors should certain requirements be met (proper overhead covering, access to electrical outlet etc.)
* Presenters will arrive to campus wearing a mask or shield and will continue wearing a mask or shield in accordance with the school policy
* It has been a long time policy of CWE that presenters are not in a room with students without a school representative in attendance. This will be strongly implemented. Presenters will arrive up to 60 minutes prior to the first presentation to set up equipment.
* We ask that there be no other groups in the same room throughout the time our presenter is in attendance, including during set-up and break-down of equipment.
* The chairs for the students will be set-up in our standard U-shape format. Should your school require social distancing of students, chairs would need to be set 6 feet apart. This will require a very large space or outdoor area.
* Should audience members be invited, face masks or shields will be required and a social distance from presenter of 6 feet maintained at all times.
* Upon arrival of students to the presentation, we ask that the teacher be wearing a mask or shield and to meet with the presenter using social distancing guidelines.
* The presenter will maintain social distancing while greeting students and throughout the presentation.
* The display will be set up at least 6 feet or more from the start of the student chairs.
* The presenter will continue to use a headset or handheld microphone for amplified voice. The presenter will provide a microphone for student use should the school policy allow and provide anti-bac for students to use before and after use.
* Team cheers will be modified to prevent yelling.
* All student speaking parts will take place 6 feet or more away from presenter and other students.
* Students will only be called up one at a time to present their assigned card. Presenter will not be calling 2 or 3 students up at the same time.
* Sentence juice will not be utilized
* We plan to maintain the Going for the Gold portion of the presentation and will use sanitizing methods when placing the lollipops to ensure they are clean. Students will still be able to come up to grab a lollipop if called but the presenter will remain 6 feet away as student comes up. Should a school not be comfortable with this, they will need to let us know prior to the presentation and we will institute a points reward system as a replacement.
* Certificates will be handed to the teacher directly by the presenter unless otherwise asked not to. Certificates may also be dropped off in the front office or a digital copy can be provided should that be preferred.

Walk Through California modifications

* Flags will be shown by the presenter, but students will not be allowed to come up to hold them
* We will still be using students to play different historical characters (Chumash Indian, Cabrillo, Father Serra) but we will not provide costume pieces or props. While wearing a mask or shield your presenter will pick students from the audience by tapping on the shoulder while students are in time machine position. If this is not permitted the teacher will need to pick the students and let the presenter know prior to the presentation.
* We will no longer be providing the Russian love story as a part of Walk Through California as we will be unable to keep the social distancing required for this story
* The Mexican Fiesta will be adjusted to not include musical instruments but maintain the dancing portion of students
* The Hoe Down during the Gold Rush story will be eliminated unless otherwise requested.
* During the map section presenters will be showing each map piece and handing the associated clues to students. Hand sanitizer will be available for students to use after placing clues on the map and clues will be sanitized at the conclusion of each presentation.

Walk Through Revolution modifications

* Flags will still be shown by the presenter but students will not be allowed to come up to hold them.
* Presenter will no longer be providing a toy sword, toy muskets, or stick pony. It will be up to each school to determine if they would like to provide a version of these items in a safe manner. If these specific props are not provided, students will be able to mime the use of the items and no points will be deducted. Due to many district policies, we do not recommend allowing students to bring play guns to school.
* We will not be playing the colony scramble unless requested and then only should the presenter have enough time to include the game.
* We are providing an option typically used for our virtual presentation for the battle scenes to be narrated without re-enactment. Should your school choose this option, please let your presenter know. Narration cards for each battle can be found on our Website under Teacher Preparation Guide section and is titled “Virtual Only: Battle Narration Cards.” These would need to be assigned to a student on each team in place of the battle scene scripts provided in the Teacher Guide. Should your class re-enact the battles, the presenter will remain 6 feet apart and the student narrator will have the choice whether or not to use the microphone reserved for student use.
* Students will be able to depict the reading of the Declaration of Independence but will take place without a microphone and either in front of the display with a distance of 6 feet between students and presenter or directly from student chairs.
* Game sheets will be completed from chairs and not in groups. Presenter will not be able to provide extra pencils. Please bring some with you.
* Should time allow, a lightning round at the end of the presentation will be played with the game sheets, but with students and presenter 6 feet apart.

Walk Through Ancient World modificiations

* We will not be asking students to come up to present Daily Life presentations. If a class would like these included, they will need to request to have them and presenter will keep 6 feet of distance.
* We will not be playing the optional Building Lego game.
* We will only be playing the Mummy Wrap competition should it be requested, and toilet paper provided.
* Game sheets will be completed from chairs and not in groups. Presenter will not be able to provide extra pencils. Please bring some with you.
* Should time allow, we will play a lightning round with the game sheets at the end of the presentation, but with students and presenter 6 feet apart.