

# Detailed Information About 2011-2012 Golden Horseshoe

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Social Studies Web Site: <http://wvde.state.wv.us/socialstudies/>

Social Studies Program Calendar: [http://wvde.state.wv.us/socialstudies/social\\_studies\\_calendar.html](http://wvde.state.wv.us/socialstudies/social_studies_calendar.html) (Calendar of all social studies program events.)

Social Studies Golden Horseshoe Web Page: <http://wvde.state.wv.us/socialstudies/goldenhorseshoe.html> (Has updated information regarding the Test and the event along with many important documents that you may need to reference.) The recording from the November Webinar (yearly) is also available for downloading and/or reviewing.

## Upcoming DATES

<b>January</b>	1	Begin collecting home-school and private school registrations
	10	Deadline to request a Braille Test List of GH Teachers
	Mid-month	Practice tests on Acuity will become available for students
<b>February</b>	23	Golden Horseshoe Essay Test Day for ALL Counties
<b>March</b>	2	Essay Test is due back into the WVDE Office of Instruction
	21	All home-school and private school registrations due to the Office of Instruction
	22-28	Golden Horseshoe Testing (Counties must test on assigned day)
<b>April</b>	first 2 weeks	WVDE will send winner packets directly to students. We will e-mail the winners to the superintendents and Golden Horseshoe County contacts but we will not send the scores until after the Golden Horseshoe Ceremony in May.
<b>May</b>	3	Golden Horseshoe Ceremony at the Capitol Complex – must have a ticket to attend the Ceremony.
	Mid-month	Golden Horseshoe Scores will be sent to Superintendents ONLY.

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## Preparing for Golden Horseshoe Test

Students have access to the Cultural Center web site which hosts several resources for students to use to prepare for the Golden Horseshoe Test.

Golden Horseshoe Preparation Page: <http://www.wvculture.org/history/goldenhorseshoeprep.html>

Quick Quizzes: <http://www.wvculture.org/history/trivia/quizindex.aspx>

Daily Trivia: <http://www.wvculture.org/history/trivia/trivia.aspx>

On This Day in WV History: <http://www.wvculture.org/history/thisdayinwvhistory/thisday.html>

Students can also practice the Essay Question by visiting the WVDE Social Studies' Golden Horseshoe web page. The previous Essay questions have been posted and can be used either as a class assignment or as a study tool.

## Registering your county's students to take the Golden Horseshoe Test

Any 8<sup>th</sup> grade student can take the Golden Horseshoe Test one time. We use the Acuity system for administering the actual Golden Horseshoe Test. For those students who have not used Acuity before, we provide practice test so that students become familiar with the site before the actual test date. We request that all students test their usernames and passwords by March 1.

Both home-school and private school students are eligible to take the test. All students must be registered by completing the Registration form and the form must be filled out completely and correctly. If the form is not completed correctly, the form will be returned and the student(s) will not be registered.

Registration forms are submitted to the Assessment Office once a week for a batch enrollment. It takes about a week to a week and half to get the students enrolled. If you have not heard from me in two weeks after submitting your registration, please send me an e-mail and let me know.

### Home-school students

Home-school students will need to be registered to take the test. They are not automatically given an Acuity account. There is a Golden Horseshoe Registration form that must be completed and returned to Joey Wiseman or Veronica Barron. The form can only be completed by a teacher, counselor or a school/county administrator. We do not permit parents to submit the registration form. The reason is that the county/school will need to know that the student is planning to participate. Once the student has been enrolled in the Acuity site, we will e-mail the person who submitted the registration form the student's username and password.

For the student's essay test and online test to count, the student must take the essay test and online test at the school he/she would normally attend. If the student does not take the essay test this doesn't mean that he/she is disqualified from taking the actual online test in March. The essay test is used as a tie breaker.

### Private-school students

Private schools can participate as long as they have a school code and complete the registration form. A private school can check to see if they have a school code by visiting the Master School Code website at <http://wveis.k12.wv.us/wveis2004/mlos.cfm?COUNTY=002>, selecting the county the school is located in and then scrolling through the list of schools. If a private school does not have a school code, one can be obtained by contact the Office of Information System and speaking with Sara Kitts at 304-558-8869 or e-mail her at [sara.kitts@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:sara.kitts@access.k12.wv.us).

Private schools must take the test on the same day as the rest of the county. Private schools should notify the county Golden Horseshoe contact so information can be distributed to the school from the county.

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## Take the Essay Test

The essay test is scheduled for February 23. Two week prior to the test date we will e-mail the essay question, the lined sheet where students can complete their answer and a memorandum regarding the essay test and nominating an honorary Golden Horseshoe recipient. We ask that the county Golden Horseshoe contacts distribute the essay test to their schools, pick the essay tests back up and send the entire county's essay tests back to the WVDE in one envelope. In case your county is spread out, the individual school can return the essay tests directly back to the WVDE Office of Instruction. We recommend that you send the essay tests back with sometime of a tracking number in case the package is misplaced by the Post Office.

The essay test can be administered by the regular WV studies teacher in a regular 45 minute class period. The teacher or test administrator will be asked to complete a confidentiality agreement and turn in an absentee roster. The absentee roster should include any student not present and any student who chose not to take the essay test. The essay test is not required and if a student chooses not to complete the essay it does NOT disqualify them from taking the online test. The essay test is used to break a tie in score. If two names have the same grade, then the essays will be read. If a student chose not to complete the essay, then the student with the essay will be a winner.

Encase of a snow day, please contact the WVDE Office of Instruction at 304-558-5325 and ask for Joey Wiseman or Veronica Barron. Otherwise, there are NO makeup days for the essay test. If a student is absent the day of the essay test, they may NOT make it up.

## Online Test

The regular WV Studies teacher may NOT administer the Online Acuity Test to the students. The WVDE requires an online confidentiality agreement stating that the test administrator is NOT the regular WV studies and will keep all information regarding the Golden Horseshoe test confidential. This confidentiality agreement must be signed three days prior to the county's scheduled test day. We recommend that you have all the teachers and test administrators complete the confidentiality agreement on an ISE day to make sure all teacher and test administrators are familiar with the test's regulations.

The online test is a 50 question test that can be completed in a 40 to 45 minutes testing window. The Acuity site will NOT shut the test down after 40 to 45 minutes. We ask that the administrators enforce the time frame to keep the test fair. If there is an internet slow down, please allow the student sufficient time to make the test fair. We suggest that you ask all other computer lab users to refrain from downloading or tying up the broadband. If a student is kicked of the internet, just have them login back into Acuity. As long as they have NOT submitted the test he/she can reenter the test to complete. In the same sense, a test cannot be grade if a student does NOT submit the test. So, please make sure your students submit the test when they have finished.

The Acuity site that you login to is the site in which your county was asked to login to. Private school students and student who are working on the practice test at home will use [acuityathome.com](http://acuityathome.com).

If a student has an IEP that requires testing accommodations, please provide those testing accommodations. For example, if a student requires extra time, please give that student the extra time that they need. If a student requires some to read the test to them, please arrange for an individual to read the test to the student.

Please notify of us of any student who have transferred or moved at all during the month of March. We will need to make sure that their Acuity account reflects the correct county they are testing in.

After the testing is complete, all absentee rosters will need to be e-mailed or faxed to the WVDE Office of Instruction. We will check to make sure that the county's winners are not on the absentee list before declaring them actual winners.

## **Detailed Information About 2011-2012 Golden Horseshoe**

As we begin getting the winners, we will send the winner's list to the superintendent and the county contact. Please stress to your teachers we will not be sending the scores to the counties until the middle of May. We will also send information directly to the student winners pertaining to the Ceremony. If a teacher or test administrator would like to attend, we have extra seating in the lobby area where a closed circuit TV is set up or they can participate behind the scenes by being an escort.

The number of winners is determined by population but every county is given a minimum of two winners. So, the bigger a county is the more winners they will have. Also note that the Golden Horseshoe test is a competition within a county NOT within the state.