**Middle & High School PA Announcements For Constitution Week**

**Monday**

After the American Revolution, the thirteen new states were loosely bound together under the “Articles of Confederation.” This was a very weak central government that was unable to raise money, pay its debts, outfit an army, or regulate trade. Congressmen often didn’t get any pay and wouldn’t show up for a session. There was no permanent national capital and no real national leader. Nine different cities had served, at one time or another, as the capital of the United States. This lasted for seven years until the important men of the day decided that something had to be done.

**Tuesday**

55 delegates came to Philadelphia in May of 1787 to amend the “Articles of Confederation,” but the articles themselves said that all thirteen states had to approve any change to the document. This was impossible since little Rhode Island hadn’t bothered to send any delegates. The most expedient thing to do was to scrap the “Articles of Confederation” and begin anew. This is exactly what they did. It took four months to write the new Constitution and 39 of the 42 members present signed it on September 17, 1787. The Constitution provided for three branches of government, the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judicial. Constitution Day is September 17th each year.

**Wednesday**

Here are some interesting facts about those men who went to Philadelphia and proceeded to write a set of laws that has lasted over 200 years. 7 had been State Governors, 41 had been congressmen, 35 were lawyers , 6 signed the Articles of Confederation, 8 signed the Declaration of Independence, more than half were college graduates and had fought in the American Revolution, most were married and had families, 4 were life-long bachelors, 12 owned large farms or plantations, 13 were businessmen, merchants, or shippers, 11 speculated in securities on a large scale, 3 were physicians, 6 were land speculators, 2 were small farmers, and 1 was a University President. All had vast political experience.

**Thursday**

Each state had to ratify the Constitution to be part of the United States of America. The Constitution provided that the Constitution would become the law of the land when nine states had ratified it. This happened in 1788. It wasn't until 1791 that all 13 of the original states ratified. Many of the states didn't ratify immediately because they felt like the rights of citizens needed to be included. Today there are 50 stars on the flag, one for each state. A state just needs to check a list of when each state joined the Union to know which star on the flag is theirs. And those rights that kept states from ratifying are found in the Bill of Rights today.

**Friday**

Gouveneur Morris (Gouveneur was his first name, not a title) was the chairman of the Committee of Style and is credited for taking 23 articles and combining them into 7, making sure it all made sense, and for writing the Preamble. Learn the Preamble to Celebrate Constitution week. It says:

“We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.” Gouveneur Morris (Gouveneur was his first name, not a title) was the chairman of the Committee of Style and is credited for taking 23 articles and combining them into 7, making sure it all made sense, and for writing the Preamble.