

A unique union of educational, advocacy and governmental organizations committed to improving civic learning for students in grades K-12.

## January 2009 Newsletter

### Philadelphia 5 County Region Civics Summit

Pennsylvania's vision for civic education was shared with curriculum coordinators, school administrators, teachers, non-profit executives and attorneys on January 13 at the National Constitution Center. PennCORD and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) hosted a regional civics summit for Philadelphia, Delaware, Chester, Bucks and Montgomery counties at the second in a 3 part series of such summits across the Commonwealth.



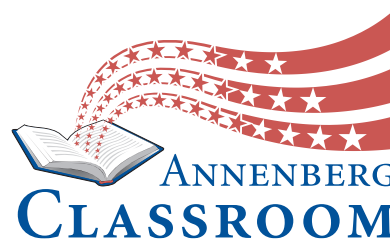
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### School Spotlight: Benjamin Franklin HS

This month, BFHS has joined PennCORD's growing list of partner schools striving for excellence in civic education. The unique JROTC program at BFHS is a Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps unit, and this year they are taking advantage of PennCORD's Mock Trial Keystone Program.

### Featured Civic Resource: Annenberg Classroom

Annenberg Classroom offers a wide array of no-cost civics education resources in a single location to help students, teachers and the public better understand the pillars of democracy. Educators can find state standards-aligned curricula, downloadable reference books, lesson plans, multimedia programs and interactive civics games. Our Constitution materials help schools meet the requirement of the Byrd Amendment that schools teach about the Constitution for Constitution Day. Search by keyword or subject area to explore Annenberg Classroom's rich sets of teaching aids.



[Visit the Site on PennCORD Schools page](#)

### Lesson Plan for the Month: Inauguration Day Bingo



Inauguration Day Bingo is an activity designed to engage students in the Presidential Inauguration through critical listening and analysis of political rhetoric. The lesson begins prior to the ceremony with the teacher providing historical background about inaugurations and how specific traditions have taken root. The lesson will continue after the ceremony when students will create bingo cards with key words they expect to hear in the President's inaugural address, based on their study of the themes likely to emerge during the speech. Students will play bingo, using their cards as a listening guide, while they watch the inauguration in class or at home.

The key words heard in the inaugural will serve as a discussion starter as well as a tool to analyze the tone the President has set for his forthcoming administration and its priorities. [View the rest on Lesson Plans page](#)

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