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To all of our amazing teachers and educators in these tumultuous times:

Hello! My name is Kate McDannold, and I am the curator of the Camilla Williams collection at the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History. I'm writing on behalf of the DMFAH to talk with you about our institution's new traveling trunk program beginning next semester. In light of both recent events with COVID-19 as well as Danville's decrease in school field trips, the DMFAH wants to find new, innovative methods to easily bring our content to your students. To address this, we are creating new traveling trunks meant to introduce students to our exhibits' content, challenge them to use multimodal learning styles to evaluate history, and connect their lessons to a unique and out-of-the-box activity session.

The first traveling trunk to be released will be our Camilla Williams lesson, which will include educational artifacts (including her own awards, teaching materials, and even sturdy costume pieces), copies of primary historical documents on Williams' life, and a full lesson plan for teachers. We hope that this trunk will encourage critical thinking and dialog within a classroom setting while addressing the following Virginia curriculum standards:

VUS 1A, 1E, and 1J: Review, analyze, and discuss historical materials in order to develop new insight, perspectives, and knowledge centered on historical events and figures.

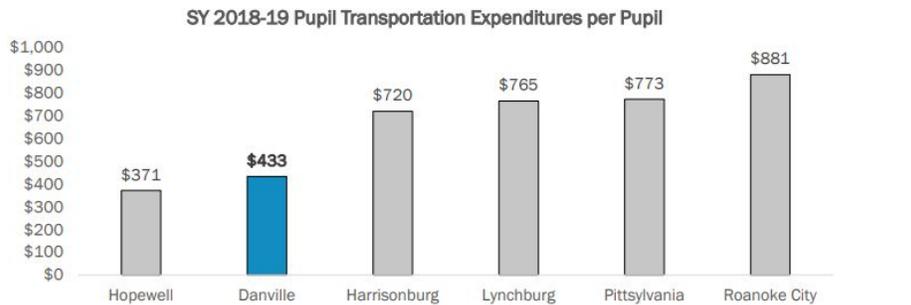
VUS.13C and 13G: Use primary sources to further explore civil rights through local figures to examine how the movement impacted all Americans, thus reaching a deeper understanding of both Danville and national history through the story of Camilla Williams.

VS1.A, VS1 C-J: Explore Virginia history through an analysis of primary artifacts, the impact of an individual's actions, and the legacy of a local figure who shattered racial barriers.

VS9.B-C: Discuss local history and figures to further understand the civil rights movement and changes in both Virginia and Danville during the mid-twentieth century.

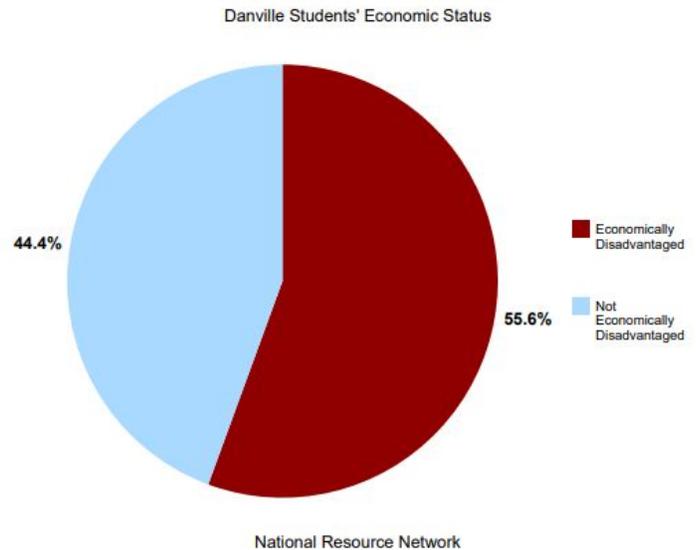
By fitting our traveling trunks around Virginia curriculum standards, we aim to make them easy to incorporate within the school year.

The need for this program stemmed from both Danville’s ongoing reduction of school funding as well as an awareness of the financial difficulties many students may be facing at home.



Danville’s budget for transporting students has decreased, and the DMFAH would never wish to add stress to educators’ lives by initiating field trip suggestions that simply may not be feasible.

The traveling trunk program would allow for teachers to access our museum’s content and materials for no charge and engage with an entire classroom of children— without the difficulties of planning an entire field trip to our museum. While we would love to see your students at our institution, we certainly understand that difficult economic times may prevent that from being attainable.



If you have any questions or suggestions for our traveling trunk program, please let us know! We would be happy to discuss this further with you. The DMFAH will be sending further information about the traveling trunk’s contents; we would love your input as teachers and educators.

Sincerely,
 Kate McDannold
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¹ Presentation, National Resource Network. “Danville Public Schools Multi-Year Financial Planning,” <http://nationalresourcenetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/DPS-Presentation-01-23.19-v4.pdf> 82.