A STEM -Based Program for students in grades 4-12
Join The Lewes Historical Society as we launch our new STEM-based Vintage Base Ball program and take your students “Out to the Ball Game!”

The Lewes Historical Society’s Vintage Base Ball program is part of the Let’s Move Museum initiative to get students learning through movement while exploring the math and science behind America’s favorite pastime.

In a trip to The Lewes Historical Society, students will have the chance to explore the rich history of base ball in Lewes. The earliest known reference to date of baseball in Lewes is from February 1874 when a match pitting Lewes against Milton was advertised for March 1, 1874. As a member of the Eastern Shore Baseball League in the early and mid 20th century, the Lewes Base Ball Club was a source of local pride, giving the citizens reason to cheer. The sport was so popular, the results of a team roster once sparked a murder in the heart of town! Students will have the chance to speak to a member of the Lewes Vintage Base Ball Club and hear stories about some of the Club’s most interesting games.

Next, students will discover the important role that math and science play in the game. From the shape of the field to the curve of the pitch, students will analyze all the different components that work together to create the game as we know it. Students will be engaged in STEM-based discussions that encourage them to think critically about the science behind each pitch and the math and engineering that go into the creation of each base ball field. As the program continues, students will be able to make connections between players’ actions and the forces that act upon both the players and their tools.

Students will have the chance to put what they learned to the test as they engineer their own vintage base ball field. Students will work collaboratively to lay the bases and prepare the field for their very own game. Once the field is completed, students will be introduced to the 1864 rules that are used by the Lewes Vintage Base Ball Club which have several differences from contemporary baseball. The most notable differences are the ability to catch the ball on one bounce for an out and no gloves are permitted for fielders. Additionally, pitchers throw underhand; batters are called strikers; strikes are called when a striker does not attempt to swing the bat after a warning from the umpire; and foul balls can be caught on the bounce for an out.

After the game, students will have a chance to discuss what they were able to learn about the science of the game and will gain a deeper understanding of the science involved in the world of base ball.
To book your field trip, please visit The Lewes Historical Society website at www.historiclewes.org.

If you or your students are interested in learning more about Vintage Base Ball and the differences between the way the game is played now versus the 1864 rules that the Lewes Base Ball Club plays by, here are some resources to help guide you.

**Lewes Vintage Base Ball Club**
The Lewes Vintage Base Ball Club is part of the Lewes Historical Society. For more information on how the club formed and their schedule of games, visit [WWW.HISTORICLEWES.ORG](http://www.historiclewes.org).

To hear a radio feature about the Lewes Base Ball club, visit the WAMU radio website at [http://wamu.org/news/12/04/25/vintage_base_ball_pays_homage_to_areas_sporting_past](http://wamu.org/news/12/04/25/vintage_base_ball_pays_homage_to_areas_sporting_past).

**The Vintage Baseball Association**
The Vintage Baseball Association provides in depth information about the history of baseball as well as a variety of rules that date back as early as 1845. Visit their website at [WWW.VBBA.ORG](http://www.vbba.org).

**Society for American Baseball Research**
The Society for American Baseball Research has a wealth of information on the history of baseball. Visit sabr.org for more information.

**Let’s Move Museums**
For more information about the Let’s Move Museums initiative, please visit the Institute of Museum and Library Service’s website at [http://www.imls.gov/about/letsmove.aspx](http://www.imls.gov/about/letsmove.aspx).

**STANDARDS**

**Common Core Standards**
- C.C.9-12.S.L.1
- C.C.9-12.S.L.3
- C.C.8.G.1
- C.C.9-12.G.MG.3

**Next Generation Science Standards**
- HS-ETS1-3
- HS-PS2-1
- HS-PS2-2

**Delaware State History Standards**
- History 3.6-8a
- History 4.9-12b
Professional Affiliations

American Alliance of Museums, American Association for State and Local History, Delaware Museum Association, Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Delaware, Small Museum Association, United States Life-Saving Service Heritage Association