

Dear Parent and Guardians of rising 8th graders in the Humanities Magnet Program:

I hope that you and your families are staying well. I know that this summer will be a challenge to families, with activities, camps, and even vacations cancelled.

I'm writing to share with you and your child a welcome video from our 8th grade Humanities teachers as well as the summer assignments that they have developed to prepare your child for next year's classes. These documents will also be available on the Eastern Middle School website.

The theme for all three magnet classes this year is **Foundations of Change: Examining the Roots of Modern Movements**. This year we are challenging students to immerse themselves in a political or social movement that impacts or has impacted American life and to produce a documentary that gets at the core of this movement.

In US History, students are asked to identify an issue in which individuals and/or groups are involved in advocacy. Students will research the issue, its root causes, and possible solutions. The summer homework provides a list of possible issues, but students should feel free to select an issue that is not on the list.

In Media, students will prepare a documentary exploring the issue. Over the summer, students should identify possible interviewees, although no interviews should be conducted until school has begun.

If you have questions regarding any of these assignments, please email the teachers directly. If you have other questions regarding the Humanities program, please don't hesitate to email me. At this time, no decisions have been made regarding the New York field research trip scheduled for October 5. As soon as we have a decision from MCPS, I will let you know. If you have questions regarding scope, purpose or structure of the field research trip, please email me.

Humanities 8 welcome video:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16f78ooiAEeU4h1amAX1tOT9MsHX-LSLR/view>

(Please note that this video supports the attached assignment sheet – it is not a substitution)

Have a safe summer.

Matthew Kerwin
Magnet Coordinator