

Humanities and Communication Magnet Program
Eastern Middle School
300 University Boulevard, East
Silver Spring, Maryland 20901

June 2019

Dear Humanities 7 Students,

We hope that you are enjoying your summer vacation. The 7th grade Humanities team is looking forward to a great year. It will be an exciting and challenging year as we will actively engage in the development of original project concepts, scholarly research, personal and expository writing, multimedia presentations, and production of all of these ideas through the World Studies, English, and Media classes. You will develop projects in these classes that offer analysis of and practice with communication concepts through a variety of mediums, challenging your comfort zones and strengthening your skill sets.

The 7th Grade historical research paper is a seminar experience two days a week for an entire semester in which students learn the research process along with appropriate formal expository writing techniques in combined English and World Studies classes. The research project and related assignments will be graded in both classes as the structure of the experience is roughly 50% process, 25% historical research, and 25% writing process. This extensive research experience will evolve into a National History Day entry, which will integrate technology and the arts. The 2019 theme for NHD is “Breaking Barriers in History” (See www.nhd.org for more information.) The two-day seminar setting will continue as students engage in both NHD and Shakespeare.

The long term project for the year in Media is the production of a documentary. These short form documentaries are published on the Our Rock Project website (ourrockproject.org). The goal is for these documentaries to be used as resources and learning tools by educational institutions from around the world. As a result, students are expected to produce their own primary and secondary source material rather than rely on found images and pre-recorded material. The Documentary Production Project gives students an opportunity to provide analysis of real world problems and propose solutions to a worldwide audience.

Throughout the year, all 3 classes will read a variety of texts, essays, short stories, and poetry to complement and support the content and context of what we are studying in class. However, here is a **partial list of readings** for English and World Studies classes.

Reading	Author	Unit
Excerpts from <i>The Canterbury Tales</i>	Geoffrey Chaucer	Middle Ages
<i>The Moon is Down</i>	John Steinbeck	World War II
<i>All But My Life</i>	Gerda Weissmann Klein	World War II
<i>Things Fall Apart</i>	Chinua Achebe	Africa
Independent text study of selected plays of Shakespeare	Shakespeare	Renaissance

Mr. MacFadden, Humanities Media

Ned_D_MacFadden@mcpssmd.org

I really look forward to working with you this upcoming school year! We are going to have a lot of fun creating and designing multimedia messages together. I will be spending my summer teaching Video Production workshops at American University and through the National Student Leadership Conference at UC-Berkeley. I will also enjoy freelancing as a photographer and producing web-based videos for local businesses. Enjoy your summer!

Mr. Earley, Humanities World Studies

Primary email: terence_j_earley@mcpssmd.org; Secondary: terence.j.earley@mcpssmd.net

Greetings scholars! I hope all of you are enjoying a well-deserved summer break. I also hope you are excited about the upcoming year! In 7th grade World Studies we will examine history through many different lenses and consider how geography, culture, and economics relate to, and influence, each other. You will begin to see events of the past and present with the critical eye of a historian and anthropologist. I am also excited about this year's National History Day theme, "Breaking Barriers in History" and I look forward to watching all of you explore a variety of subjects around that theme while researching your papers.

Mr. Flynn, Humanities English

eviliago13@yahoo.com (most reliable and timely); ryan_flynn@mcpssmd.org (direct school email);

I hope everyone is taking the summer to recharge and get ready for a challenging and exciting year. We begin with the 7th Grade Historical Research Paper, a scholarly research project that will escalate your skills as a researcher, thinker, and writer. Additionally, we will read and explore different genres, examine myriad techniques of writing - some of which I hope you incorporate into your own style, and learn to look at language and literature through different lenses that maybe you haven't considered before. We focus strongly on the purposeful use of language to craft impactful "text" - traditional, auditory, and visual. Moreover, we regularly discuss the development of characters and storylines through their interactions with others, as well as their settings. This is life; this is humanity. And this is what we explore, discuss, and present. If you have any questions, get in touch with me via the email address above. See you then.

We will share information on the three workshops we are holding this summer to get you started on your history research paper electronically and via handout before school is out. Materials for the summer assignments will be available on the summer assignment classroom and 7th Grade Research Paper/NHD classroom you joined at the end of the year. Please remember to check the Eastern website to access your summer math assignments and other information.

See you in August!

Sincerely,
The Seventh Grade Humanities Team