

HUMANITIES AND COMMUNICATION UPCOUNTY CENTER PROGRAM

Roberto Clemente Middle School
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Dear Students and Parents:

We are excited to have you returning for your final year at Roberto Clemente Middle School. In this letter, you will find assignments to complete during the summer. Please spread the work out over the next two months so that you are not rushed to complete the tasks at the end of August. We look forward to working with you in the upcoming year.

- The Humanities 8 Team

WORLD STUDIES

Ms. Nancy Sesler Nancy_S_Unger@mcpsmd.org

Ms. Sesler is a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where she attended the University of Pittsburgh before completing her BS in Education at the University of Maryland, graduating Magna Cum Laude. Her extensive post-graduate coursework included achieving a Masters Degree plus 60 additional credits of study in addition to the achievement of National Board Certification.

Ms. Sesler has been a teacher in Montgomery County since 1986. Teaching experiences during those years included several years at both the Cold Spring Magnet Program and the Inclusion program at Judith Resnik. Ms. Sesler has been a Social Studies Resource Teacher for the Social Studies Department at RCMS since 1999. She joined the Center Program in 2005.

The 8th grade year of study begins with a brief review of the Crusades, the Renaissance, the Reformation, the Enlightenment, and the Age of Exploration in order to understand the connection to the New World. Students will connect these events to European colonization and expansion into new territories, as well as the effects that expansion had on native populations. Over the summer students should check out the following websites listed below in order to extend your knowledge of these topics:

The Mariners' Museum (www.mariner.org/chesapeakebay/colonial/co1009.html)
This site has a great recap of both of Smith's voyages exploring the Chesapeake in 1608. Using a colorized copy of his 1608 map, the user can

click on a menu of different topics running across the top of the screen to learn about various rivers, chiefs, accidents that occurred, the route taken, fish, boats, fishing techniques, etc. Using Quick Player technology, the user can digitally follow Smith's route while pertinent sections of his written text act as a narrative of the journey.

Virginia Center for Digital History – Virtual Jamestown
(www.virtualjamestown.org)

John White/Theodor de Bry Images

(www.virtualjamestown.org/images/white_debry_html/jamestown.html)

These watercolors by John White, and their associated engravings made by Theodor de Bry, are the only known eyewitness renderings of the natives made at point of first contact.

A Virtual Map and Recreation of John Smith's Voyages

(www.virtualjamestown.org/smith_voyages/jsmith_voyages.html)

The viewer can watch Smith's voyages get retraced on a modern map of the Chesapeake Bay. The map also shows locations of historic Indian towns as well as modern towns/cities found in the region.

National Geographic

(www.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0506/feature2/map.html)

This site contains a map of Smith's 1608 voyages that was included in National Geographic's June issue.

The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities

(www.apva.org/jr.html)

This site contains the Jamestown Rediscovery archaeological project, which is investigating the remains of 1607-1698 Jamestown on the APVA property on Jamestown Island, Virginia.

Media Production

Mr. James Dempsey [James G Dempsey@mcpsmd.org](mailto:James_G_Dempsey@mcpsmd.org)

Mr. Dempsey is a recipient of a Montgomery County School system education and a graduate of the University of Maryland. He earned his BA degree in Radio, Television, and Film with a minor in Art Design. His extensive coursework included editing, directing, field production, audio production, scriptwriting, film criticism, theatre history, philosophy, optical physics, acting, photography, drawing, and wood and metal sculpture.

Mr. Dempsey spent six years as a video technical support specialist for the Eastern Humanities program. He also ran an independent production company for several years, as well as worked in the field of video production before joining our program in 2004.

There is not a summer assignment for Media Production.

ENGLISH

Ms. Nancy Baskin [Anne L. Baskin@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Anne.L.Baskin@mcpsmd.org)

Ms. Baskin earned her bachelor of arts degree from Clemson University. She also has a ME degree from Loyola College in Baltimore. Ms Baskin has been teaching at RCMS since 2004. Prior to coming to Clemente she spent two years as the English Resource Teacher at Albert Einstein High School. Prior to Einstein she was at Sligo Middle School where she taught English, Creative Writing, Computer Applications and Media Production.

Students will need to research their families' immigrant history. From where did both your parents' families emigrate? What year did they arrive in the United States? What state did they enter the country through... Hawaii? Alaska? New York? California?

Choose one novel to read set in any of the countries from your families' origin. Please record the title and author of the book as well as the setting, time period and customs you've read about in this novel.

Please bring all of the above information with you on the second day of school as we will plot this information on a graph and use this as our starting point in our study of immigrant America.

If you have any questions, email me at the above email.

8TH GRADE MATH

Teachers: Ms. Girlando, Mr. Walker, and Ms. Gibson

While math is not technically part of the Humanities program, the math teachers did ask that students keep up their skills over the summer. Please download the math packet based on your placement for next year from the school web site (<http://www.robertoclementems.com>).