

HUMANITIES AND COMMUNICATION UPCOUNTY CENTER PROGRAM

Roberto Clemente Middle School
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June 1, 2014

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

Mr. Aaron Barnett Aaron_B_Barnett@mcpsmd.org

Mr. Barnett is extremely excited to make the transition to Roberto Clemente Middle School this year! He was born and raised in Montgomery County, MD where he graduated from Magruder High School. He went on to attend the University of Maryland College Park where he earned a degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice. Realizing his passion for teaching, Mr. Barnett enrolled in American University's Master of Arts in Teaching program with a concentration in secondary social studies. During this program, he completed a fellowship that focused on extensive research and teaching of early American history.

Following graduate school, Mr. Barnett taught both 6th and 8th grade World Studies at Shady Grove Middle School. At SGMS, he served as SGA advisor, 6th grade team leader and completed a Masters Certificate in Educational Leadership from Hood College. Mr. Barnett has also written social studies curriculum for four years, both for MCPS and a private corporation. He currently resides in Montgomery County where he enjoys cheering on the skins and spending time with his wife and two daughters. Mr. Barnett's teaching philosophy focuses on high expectations, building strong relationships in the classroom and ensuring that ALL students leave his class as improved readers, writers and thinkers.

Your summer assignment is to write a one to two page paper answering the question, "What is history and what do historians do?" When answering this question, reflect on how your experiences in 6th and 7th grade social studies

classes have informed your answer to this question. Be sure to include the following information in your paper:

- Your personal definition of history
- An explanation of the work that you believe historians do
- Specific experiences from your first two years of World History classes that informed the writing of your definition and explanation of historical work
- Questions about this topic that you are interested in learning more about

Please do not consult outside sources for help on this task. This assignment will be used as a starting point from which we will all delve into both the story of the early United States and the very nature of historical exploration.

Media Production

Mr. James Dempsey 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. Ashley S. Moss-Pham Ashley_S_Moss-Pham@mcpsmd.org

Ms. Moss-Pham received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of South Carolina. She studied French at the Sorbonne University for one year prior to transitioning into her graduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania. In graduate school, she received the Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching by Graduate Students in the School of Arts & Sciences and earned a Master's Degree in English Literature.

Ms. Moss-Pham began her career in education teaching English and Journalism at Eleanor Roosevelt High School's Science & Technology magnet program in Prince George's County. She taught English for six years at Richard Montgomery High School where she also piloted and coordinated the first International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme to be accredited in the state of Maryland. During her tenure at Richard Montgomery High School, she received a Principal's Award for Outstanding Leadership as well as a Recognition Award for Leadership in the RMHS Cluster. She taught inclusion and GT English at Shady Grove Middle School for two years. Ms. Moss-Pham came to teach in the Center Program at Roberto Clemente Middle School in 2009.

Your summer English assignment is to write a one to two page typed reflection on your relationship to and with the Humanities Program as you enter into your third and final year of the program. I would like to know all about your experience(s) in Humanities to date, including:

- The factors that influenced your decision to apply to our program
- The skills, experiences and benefits you and your family were hoping you would gain as a result of participating in the Humanities program
- The degree to which those expectations and hopes have been satisfied, along with specific supporting details
- What you are still hoping for and perhaps also worrying about as you enter the capstone year of the program

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

8th Grade Math

Teacher: Mr. Walker

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

www.robertoclementems.org