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

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
- What are some questions that you are most interested in investigating this year in US History?

This assignment is due on the first day of school. Please do not consult outside sources for help on this task. You will earn a grade for this assignment based on your depth of thinking and reflection on these topics, NOT on your background knowledge. This paper will be used as a starting point from which we will 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 graduated magna cum laude from the University of South Carolina where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. She spent her final year abroad where she studied French language & civilization at the Sorbonne University before transitioning into graduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Once in graduate school, she was awarded the School of Arts & Sciences Dean’s Award for Distinguished Teaching by Graduate Students, earning her Master’s Degree in English Literature and pursuing further post-graduate studies.

Ms. Moss-Pham began her career in public education teaching English and Journalism classes in Prince George’s County at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Roosevelt’s Science & Technology magnet program. 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 was honored with both a Principal's Award for Outstanding Leadership and a Recognition Award for Leadership in the RMHS Cluster. Ms. Moss-Pham began teaching 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 that 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
- The challenges you may have experienced as a Humanities magnet student and how the Center teachers and/or program might have better assisted you in overcoming those challenges... Again, the more specific your details and examples, the better.
- 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