

May/June History Newsletters

6th grade

The 6th grade is in the middle of studying the Greek alphabet, ancient Greek culture and mythology. We examined the Greek alphabet and even made name tags in Greek, which we wear during class. Each student was assigned to be a citizen of either Sparta or Athens. The citizens researched their city-states and then designed a flag using the Greek democratic method. We begin each class with a myth of the day and I am confident that the students will have an impressive knowledge of the common Greek myths, gods and goddesses. They were each assigned a short report about a Greek god or goddess, the final draft of which is due on Thursday, May 21st.

Fly-up will be on June 4th during which the 6th graders will take a peek at the 7th grade textbook, as well as get a preview of the projects, papers and expectations of 7th grade medieval world history.

7th grade

The 7th grade is finishing up their study of medieval Europe. We discussed the importance of monasteries and then made our own illuminated letters which will be sent home before the end of the school year. Upon return from the extended field trips, we will learn about the effect the Crusades and the Black Death had on medieval Europe.

Fly-up will be on June 4th. At that time the students will get a preview of the 8th grade US History curriculum, textbook, projects and papers. As I will be teaching 8th grade American Literature next year, I will hand out the summer reading books, *Private Peaceful* and *Farewell to Manzanar*, along with the summer assignments. The summer reading assignments will be **due on the first day of school which will be August 20th**. For everyone's convenience, I will also post the assignment on this page.

During fly-up, I will also distribute the registration and general information packets for the 2010 field trip to colonial Virginia. Students who register early will be able to take advantage of the 2009 price freeze. I only have room for **four chaperones**, so if you are interested in chaperoning, please email me **before you register**.

8th grade

Of course the big news in May is the trip to colonial Virginia. We will visit Williamsburg, Jamestown, Yorktown, see a reenactment of a witch trial, drill with the militia, and experience the development of African American music. We will also see the Civil War iron clad ship, the Monitor, and visit Shirley plantation and Mount Vernon. We expect to take lots of picture and create some really wonderful memories.

There will be a comprehensive **final** for US history on **Tuesday, May 26th** . We have been working on a review for several days to prepare the students for that test.

Graduation festivities begin in earnest with the annual banquet. The following is a list of dates to mark on you calendars:

Thurs., May 28 th	Banquet	12 pm	Michael's on Main
Fri., May 29 th	Farewell Assembly	1:40 pm	school gym
Mon., June 1 st	Retreat	8-12	Resurrection Church
Tues., June 2 nd	Breakfast	8-9:30	school gym
	Graduation Rehearsal	10-12	Resurrection Church
	Graduates Gather	4pm	Markey Hall, Resurrection Church
	Graduation Mass & Ceremony	4:30	Resurrection Church
	Reception	6pm	Markey Hall

Now for a little “been there-done that” advice...no matter which high school your student will attend, it is a good idea to have him/her take the SAT in the spring of both their freshman and sophomore years. Consider them practice tests. It is a time and money well spent to alleviate some test anxiety. The Collegeboard administers the test and will submit the highest test score to which ever colleges or universities the student is applying to, so there is really nothing to lose.

On a personal note, teaching all of your children has been a blessing to me this year.

Thank you!

Fondly,

Karen Conley