

Tuesday, April 21

Language & Literature

6th Grade: Hello, 6th Graders! We hope you and your families are well. Since we are all in the midst of living this quarantine life, we thought you might have some fun this week designing some quarantine houses of your own.

For this **optional activity**, come up with **4 quarantine houses that you would like to live in. Then choose the one you would move into and give the reasons why.** Think about: What are some of your favorite sports or activities? What do you like to do for fun or to relax? Do you have a favorite hobby? What are your favorite snacks or meals? Who are your favorite people to hang out with?

EXAMPLE:

House #1 Quarantine Relaxation House:

Endless supply of coffee

T.V. to watch Netflix

View of the ocean

My dog

Out of my 4 designs, I would choose my Quarantine Relaxation house. This house consists of so many things I love and would help me to feel relaxed and carefree. I would wake up each morning, pour myself a cup of coffee in my favorite mug and enjoy it outside on my deck. I would enjoy listening to the ocean and watching the waves come into shore. Later in the day I would find my favorite series on Netflix and binge watch it under a cozy blanket on my couch while my dog lays at my feet.

This is meant to be a creative writing activity, so let those creative juices flow! In the meantime, get some fresh air, drink lots of water, and enjoy an amazing book this week. We miss you!

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Smithman gabrielle.smithman@dmschools.org

7th Grade: Hi, 7th Graders,

This week, all 7th grade language and literature classes will continue to hold Microsoft Teams meetings for those that choose to attend. Please check your email or Teams calendar for times.

For those that don't have the technology yet to get on Teams, we are continuing to research and write our formal paper. As a reminder, students are researching a topic of interest and writing a formal, 5-paragraph essay on the topic. We are happy to give feedback on the writing either via email or online meetings. Students can email us their document whether it is typed or a picture of hand-written work.

	<p>If the paper isn't working for a student due to technology issues, please just continue to read at least 30 minutes each day and write up what was read. We know that this time is challenging and want to support you all without overloading you. Simply doing some reading and writing is enough.</p> <p>Hopefully, all is well for everyone. We are thinking of you! Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or for further suggestions.</p> <p>Mr. Severson (adam.severson@dmschools.org) Mrs. Cooney (Hillari.cooney@dmschools.org)</p>
8 th Grade:	<p>Hello, 8th Graders!</p> <p>We hope that this week's communication finds you all doing well and starting to find your version of "normal" in this bizarre time that we are living in. The whole 8th grade Language & Literature team would like to encourage you to continue reading, exploring, and documenting the stories that are developing around you at this time.</p> <p>One of the things we have noticed lately are the questions that keep coming up about people's freedoms and rights being protected—or according to some—violated. In times of crisis, what are your rights? How do governments and people strike a balance between safety of all and rights of individuals?</p> <p>In this week's OPTIONAL challenge, we would like to have you start by looking at the <i>Universal Declaration of Human Rights</i>. This declaration of 30 Articles was created as an international message of the rights ALL humans should have around the world. The United Nations adopted the document as a basis for their international peacekeeping and protective work in 1948. If you look closely, you will see many parallels to the United States <i>Bill of Rights</i>. Freedoms like freedom of speech, right to a fair trial, and the right to life are all concepts that appear in both documents. Below are some resources to explore about the <i>Universal Declaration of Human Rights</i>—try to make mental connections between what you know about the <i>Bill of Rights</i> and the rights listed in the declaration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the universal human rights? (Benedetta Berti, TED-Ed)• Universal Declaration of Human Rights (posted by uua.org)• Illustrated Universal Declaration of Human Rights (www.un.org)• The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (animation created by Human Rights Action Center)

For example, look at this photograph from Denver, CO, this week (photographed by Alyson McClaran).



- On one side, you have a person actively exercising their freedom of speech by protesting Covid-19 shut-downs and the oppression of their rights (UDHR Article 19 and 30).
- On the other side, you have a medical professional blocking the protest, exercising his freedom of speech, in an effort to protect the health and well-being of society as a whole (UDHR Article 3, 19, 25).

Now, think about the world we are currently living in and how things have changed over the past few weeks. Is there a specific right that you see being violated? Is there a specific right that you see being protected? Which is more important, individual freedoms or whole-society protections?

Using the following FlipGrid links, sign in with your school email and post your thoughts about human rights being protected or violated. Reminder, this is an opportunity to express your thinking in a different way—use emojis if you're not comfortable showing your face—or point it at the ceiling! Also, your teachers are the only ones who will be seeing your responses—be honest and reflective!

- Johnson 1st: <https://flipgrid.com/45829d39>
- Johnson 2nd: <https://flipgrid.com/24ae9646>
- Cooney 2nd: <https://flipgrid.com/c4fc1d16>
- Overland 2nd: <https://flipgrid.com/2d3faefa>
- Johnson 3rd: <https://flipgrid.com/be2f33a9>
- Johnson 4th: <https://flipgrid.com/c0b7228c>
- Johnson 5th: <https://flipgrid.com/55925f87>
- Johnson 7th: <https://flipgrid.com/c7695e02>

Beyond this challenge assignment, we would like to remind you to keep watching for email updates from your teachers about Teams Meetings and Office Hours. As always, you can email us at any time to check in, ask questions, and just let us know how things are going with you!

Until next week--Be safe, make good choices, and keep in touch!

	<p>Your 8th Grade Language & Literature Team,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Johnson--katie.johnson@dmschools.org • Mrs. Cooney--hillari.cooney@dmschools.org • Mrs. Overland--ashley.overland@dmschools.org • Mrs. Stringer--susan.stringer@dmschools.org
<p><i>Individuals & Societies</i></p>	
<p>6th Grade:</p>	<p>Hi, 6th Graders!</p> <p>Another week has passed, and we still miss you just as much, if not more! We hope you and your families are all doing well and are safe during this time.</p> <p>This week we are asking you to read 2 articles from Newsela. Newsela is a great resource to read non-fiction articles from all subject areas, and you can sign-up for Newsela for free. To access these articles, please click on the links below.</p> <p>Article 1 (European Geography & Culture)</p> <p>Article 2 (Medieval Europe)</p> <p>After reading through the articles about European geography and culture, and Medieval Europe, please email us and tell us with your response to the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What is something new you learned? 2) How did this new information change your way of thinking about this subject? 3) What is a connection (from the article) you can make with another class? 4) What is something you are wondering after reading the articles? <p>We look forward to reading your responses!</p> <p>As always, we encourage you to watch CNN10. This is a great and quick way to stay up to date with current events!</p> <p>Best,</p> <p>Mrs. Sereg- breanne.sereg@dmschools.org Miss Tharp- christina.tharp@dmschools.org</p>
<p>7th Grade</p>	<p>Wow, each week seems to be going at its own pace! I don't know about you, but we are missing the rigor, purpose & challenge of school. If you're getting a little restless or want to keep the ol' brain muscle tuned up (people call it that, right?!), please read on about this week's challenge.</p> <p>For this challenge, you're going to be sharing what you found out with your class on a shared Google document (for Ms. McCormick's classes) or sharing it in a Teams Meeting (for Mr. Thomas's classes).</p>

	<p>The challenge for the week will help us all stay up to date on the news in the world <u>and</u> in our own lives. So, here's the plan: Each person is going to find a news story that relates to something we've studied this year (that would be culture/colonization, migration, population, scarcity of resources, standard of life, or, COVID-19). Read the article you picked, and then leave these things in the Google document or have them ready to share in the Teams Meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Your name 2.) Title of article, the newspaper that published it, <u>and</u> a link to the article 3.) How it's connected to something we've studied this year 4.) A fact that you found most interesting or important in the article (explained in your own words) 5.) The silliest thing you've done or biggest frustration you've had in this last week of quarantine (or anything you want to share about you) <p>If you're in Ms. McCormick's class, find your class period & post your responses here.</p> <p>If you're in Mr. Thomas's class, you'll discuss your answers in your Teams Chat with Mr. Thomas. See the bold text below for his message on where you can find out the time of your meeting with him.</p> <p>Mr. Thomas has sent an email and an invitation about upcoming Microsoft Teams meeting times. Please respond when you get the message.</p> <p>And just an FYI, Ms. McCormick hopes to be able to start class Teams meetings soon, but right now she's the only one home with an almost-2 year old who is not (yet) patient/knowledgeable enough to learn about world issues.</p> <p>Remember our office hours are: Kathryn.mccormick@dmschools.org on Wed. 9-11am barry.thomas@dmschools.org on Friday 2-4pm</p>
8 th Grade:	<p>Hello, 8th Graders:</p> <p>Once again, we hope this communication finds everyone well and not too stir crazy.</p> <p>This week, Mr. Thomas and Mr. O'Connor are beginning Microsoft Teams meetings for our classes for those that choose to attend. Students have been sent invitations to join these meetings through their district email accounts. These meetings are completely voluntary, not required and not graded in any way. This week's meetings are basically to say hello and to test the process as we are both aware that not everyone has computer access yet.</p> <p>The district will be rolling out the official 8th Grade Early American History Canvas course at some point during the day on Monday, April 27. It begins with an exploration of the Civil War, so if students have been digging into the learning opportunities we've been providing here for the last few weeks, they should be pretty familiar with the content. Like the resources we've been sending out, the District Early American History Canvas</p>

course is also COMPLETELY VOLUNTARY, not required, and is not graded. We will be using our class meetings on Microsoft Teams to help students with any questions that they might have about the Canvas course.

Remember, tomorrow (Wednesday) is computer distribution day at Merrill. See Mrs. Panek's communication from yesterday.

We continue to miss you all and wish you the best. Contact us any time, but your quickest response will come via our office hours (Mr. Thomas—2-4 p.m., and Mr. O'Connor—3-5 p.m.) every Friday. Be well!

Mr. O'Connor (david.oconnor@dmschools.org)

Mr. Thomas (barry.thomas@dmschools.org)