

Tuesday, April 28

Language & Literature	
6 th Grade:	<p>Hello, 6th graders. We hope you have been able to enjoy the great weather and an amazing book in the last week! Below are some resources, office hour times, and a writing challenge to complete if you choose.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Our office hours will be held each Wednesday from 1:00-2:00. Pop in to Teams to ask questions, get help, or just say hi to Vogel, Freeman or Smithman. We would love to “see” you then! 😊2. Paper packets will be sent home this week, and Canvas classes are now live. If you need help with either (or both) of these, please go to this video for further instruction and support: https://merrillmiddleschoolsupport.wordpress.com/2020/04/17/6th-grade-ela-packet-support/ This site will be updated weekly, so bookmark it for your reference!3. Writing challenge: last week you created your dream “quarantine houses” and included what each house would feature. This week, choose five people you would invite into your house. These can include celebrities, fictional book characters, or historical figures, but cannot include anyone you actually know. For each person you invite, explain why you chose that person. Think about a well-balanced house: who is going to keep everyone entertained? Fed? Learning? Email your teacher your answer and we will share our “dream team” with you! <p>Stay well, everyone. Don’t forget to get outside and read something great! We miss you.</p>
7 th Grade:	<p>Hi, 7th Graders,</p> <p>We hope you are all doing well. Our Teams meetings will continue to focus on formal writing about your research topic. This week we will focus on transitions and connecting ideas between sentences. Our goal is to have paragraph 2 done at some point this week.</p> <p>Canvas has rolled out as well and focuses on Central idea and reading for that meaning. As you are researching, that is essentially what you are doing, so don’t feel pressured to do the Canvas as well. However, you are welcome to do anything in the Language Arts section. If you do, let us know if you have any questions.</p> <p>We will continue to be available during our office hours on Teams or via email at any time. Again, our office hours are Mondays and Fridays from 9:30-11:00 and on Wednesdays from 1:30-2:30. Have a great week!</p> <p>Mr. Severson, Mrs. Cooney, Ms. Nielsen</p>

8th Grade:

Hello, 8th Graders!

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 in this time. As you begin to dive into your Canvas course this week, you will notice that this week's challenge is VERY similar to last week's because the topics revolve around rights, freedoms, and identities.

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?**

In this week's OPTIONAL challenge, we would like to have you start by looking at the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. 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 *Bill of Rights*. Explore the inalienable rights that are outlined in the declaration.

- [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)

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 OR your school email, post your thoughts about human rights being protected or violated. Reminder, FlipGrid 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!

Your 8th Grade Language & Literature Team,
Ms. Johnson, Ms. Cooney, Ms. Overland, and Ms. Stringer

Individuals & Societies

6th Grade: Hi, 6th Graders!

We hope you and your family are all doing well. We still miss seeing you each day.

Currently, you should be able to access the Canvas course for our class. For your challenge this week, we are asking you to take time and *familiarize yourself with the Canvas platform* and email us any questions you have.

You should be able to access content for the week, and we continue to add past challenges (just in case you did not get a chance to complete them).

As always, take some time to stay caught up on current events. A great way to do that is by watching [CNN10](#).

Remember to enjoy some time outside and read something!

Best,

Mrs. Sereg- breanne.sereg@dmschools.org
Miss Tharp- christina.tharp@dmschools.org

7th Grade

Human Rights Around the World

We still miss you guys but have loved seeing many of your faces and voices on our Teams call! As you get into studying human rights on your Canvas course, we will offer extra practice here.

Can you figure out which human right (or rights) is being violated in each of these 9 short scenarios? Check out the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) to figure it out.

1. A group of people in North Korea want to gather to protest the government. Police force them to leave the area they gathered.
2. The Chinese government punishes a couple for having a second child.
3. The government of Turkey burns down villages of Kurds and forces them to move to new towns.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. A Brazilian child is denied a school education because the family can't afford to pay for books. 5. A criminal in El Salvador is found guilty of a crime but never went to trial. 6. Garment workers in Sri Lanka work 14 hour days in poorly lit shops and have to wait months to be paid. 7. Palestinians have a big rally to get statehood (start their own country). 8. A member of the Makah tribe is denied hunting endangered whales for a religious ceremony of her tribe. 9. People fleeing armed violence in Haiti are refused admission to the US as refugees. <p>Email your response to: Ms. McCormick (kathryn.mccormick@dmschools.org) or Mr. Thomas (barry.thomas@dmschools.org).</p>
<p>8th Grade:</p>	<p>Hello, 8th Graders:</p> <p>Just a reminder that the District's Early American History Canvas course is up and running. You can access the voluntary learning opportunities in that course by using the link on the district's dmps@home webpage (dmschools.org/onlinelearning) or through the waffle icon in the upper, left-hand corner of your Outlook page.</p> <p>To supplement your learning in the Canvas course about the controversy surrounding removal of Confederate monuments in the South, take a look at the videos found at https://www.choices.edu/teaching-news-lesson/history-dispute-charlottesville-confederate-monuments/ that introduce the idea of "Historical Memory" and jot down quick answers to these questions after watching the videos:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is Historical Memory? 2. How do governments and citizens shape historical memory? 3. What are the consequences of forgetting historical violence? 4. What is the difference between history and memory? <p>Finally, read the following quote from President Trump following the violence in Charlottesville that erupted around marches conducted by hate groups opposed to the removal of Confederate monuments:</p> <p>"So, will George Washington now lose his status? Are we going to take down statues to George—how about Thomas Jefferson?...Now, are we going to take down his statue? So, you know what? It's fine. You're changing history. You're changing culture...You know, you have to ask yourself, where does it stop?"</p> <p>What argument is the President making? Do you agree or disagree with the President's argument? Why/why not?</p>

We also hope you will continue to work your way through the Khan Academy tutorials on the Civil War and the Ken Burns documentary film on the Civil War that were suggested in previous Tuesday communications.

Remember, Mr. Thomas and Mr. O'Connor have Office Hours on Friday. Drop us an email just to say hi, or to ask any questions you might have about these learning opportunities or the Canvas course. Both Mr. Thomas's and Mr. O'Connor's students have also received invitations to Microsoft Teams Class Meetings. Accept the invitations and join your class meetings on a voluntary basis.

Mr. Thomas's (barry.thomas@dmschools.org) office hours are from 2-4 pm.

Mr. O'Connor's (david.oconnor@dmschools.org) office hours are from 3-5.

Stay healthy and keep learning.

Mr. O'Connor

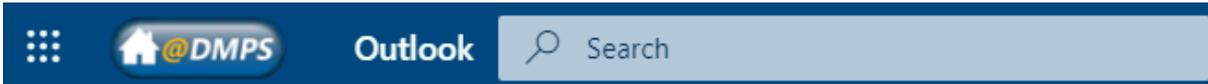
Mr. Thomas

Other Notes

Students have easy access to all their apps (Canvas, Teams, etc.) through their student email. Go to student email through the DMPS website (www.dmschools.org). Click on the Students tab and then select *Student email*.

Sign in with the whole email address as the username (studentID@student.dmschools.org) and student computer password.

Once students are signed into their email, they have access to OneDrive, Teams, Canvas, Word, Excel and other Apps by clicking on the "waffle" (the 9 white dots) in the upper left corner of the Outlook page (see picture below). This information is also on pages 8-9 in the Student Device Guide which was included in your bag if you picked up a computer from Merrill.



Band and Orchestra students who have personally owned instruments or instruments rented from a music store: Reminder that tomorrow, **Wednesday, April 29th**, is your opportunity to pick up your instrument at Merrill. Please be sure to email Mr. Morgan or Mrs. Graham and let them know exactly where your instrument is so they can retrieve it and bring it outside for you to pick up between **1:00-2:30pm!**