



“Creating an Educated Community
To Serve Christ and One Another
With Integrity and Respect”

Dear Rising 7th graders,

The following are opportunities for summer exploration. The items below ARE NOT required. Social studies ideas ARE NOT extra credit assignments. Science ideas ARE extra credit assignments.

History (this IS NOT for extra credit)

1. Consider taking advantage of some of the museum opportunities that exist in Washington. The following are suggestions of things that I think you would enjoy and that will give you some context for topics you will be studying during the next two years.
 - Smithsonian Museum of American History
 - Smithsonian: National Portrait Gallery and Museum of American Art, located together across from Verizon Center; beautiful atrium for lunch; personal favorite!
 - Mount Vernon
 - National Museum of the American Indian: This is a reading museum. The exhibits are very thoughtful and thought provoking, but there is not a lot of “stuff” to see. Another fine dining experience; you will appreciate how connected our foods are to the Native American heritage.
 - National Building Museum. Exhibit, Washington: Symbol and City
 - National Museum of African American History and Culture. This is a phenomenal resource. I cannot recommend it strongly enough. Like the National Museum of the American Indian, it provides much to think about. (And the restaurant is also awesome!)
2. Look for the history-ish opportunity wherever you are! Examples: World War II watch towers along Delaware Coast; can visit one at Cape Henlopen.
3. Read! Any historical fiction or nonfiction will broaden your base for understanding our study of US history in 7th and 8th grades. Follow a current events topic.

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4. Movies: Many great movies can expose you to historical context or significant people in history. Do some searching and find a few that interest you.

Have a wonderful summer, and I look forward to studying the history of the United States with you.

Science (this IS for extra credit)

Science in the Summer

Visit a science or discovery museum, a nature center, a National Park, or an outdoor museum such as a botanical garden or zoo. Spend some time investigating the exhibits and/or speaking with the park ranger or docent. Write a one-page report and include:

- Your name, “7th Optional Summer Science Work,” name of museum or park visited, and date of visit;
- Two well-written paragraphs describing what you saw and something new you learned; and
- A list of five things you (1) wondered about and/or (2) found most fascinating.

Drawings or photos always welcome in addition to your writing!

