

The Nifty 50s

Stroll down “memory lane” with the class of 2016!

In March, students will begin an integrated unit entitled “NIFTY 50s”, which will culminate in a Sock Hop on May 5th from 6:30 to 8 PM. It will be a fun and fast six weeks. We want to direct you to the [Nifty 50s Unit](#) website for details, assignments, rubrics, and opportunities. Please bookmark this at home for easy reference.

SPOILER ALERT!

This unit challenges students in a variety of ways. It is highly individualized and requires a fair amount of independent study, organization, and preparation by the students. As a function of this “voice and choice” approach, a student can be as successful as they choose to be. Accordingly, we are sending home some information so that everyone will be “cool” with this and allow all of the students to “Rock and Roll”. The website’s design is intended to resemble a diner menu, with required, choice, and enrichment selections.

Each student is expected to complete the required activities listed in **column one**:

- **Timeline Activity**

- All students will investigate a specific event and contribute to a timeline of the decade.

- **Dance instruction**

- All students will learn popular 50s dances as part of their physical education class with Ms. Cronin. The assessment rubric is posted.

- **Literature Study**

- All students will read one of the titles from the reading list and schedule a “book chat” with Mr. Fortier or Ms. Coombs. The list of titles, due dates, and a rubric for the book chat assessment can be found on the website.

- **Museum**

- All students will bring in an artifact to interpret for the 1950s museum. Artifacts may be documents, toys, household items, posters, family or cultural memorabilia (Korean Conflict, red scare, polio, nuclear threat, civil rights, cars, and or television) from the decade (1950 – 1959). *We do not want families to purchase artifacts* – the value in this activity is in the connections students make with family members.

- **Sock Hop**

- All students are expected to attend the evening dance on Thursday, May 5th from 6:30 – 8:00.
- If a student is not able to attend due to a family emergency they must present a note from a parent. There will be other work to complete if they do not attend. We appreciate your support on this one. As we have explained to the students, a lacrosse practice or game does not constitute a family emergency.
- We expect that on “Sock Hop” night all students will be dressed in period clothing. With creativity, planning, and perseverance students can put something together with little expense. The Goodwill store is a great place to start. We will give students some tips and ideas in class and there are examples of appropriate outfits on the website.

In **column two**, students have choices in stations. Students will be provided with ample class time and a personal planner to stay organized.

- **Stations**

- In the middle column, students are expected to complete activities from any five of the six categories (one in each category = 5 total). They should carefully select activities that most interest them and can be accomplished in the class time available.
- Although students will be given options based on their learning styles, the day-to-day expectation throughout the unit is that students will select and complete tasks in a timely fashion. This is an opportunity for students to have some freedom and choice in activities that are offered.
- If students plan and use their time wisely they should be able to complete these stations in school. Simply put, there is no such thing as “free time” - students need to be busy each and every day of class. By the same token, any students falling behind schedule have “given themselves homework”.

The **third column** invites motivated students to go above and beyond in any number of ways.

- **Enrichment opportunities**

- There are opportunities to perform (vocal, dance, recitation) at the “Sock Hop”. Students must speak to Mr. Fortier if they are interested.
- There are opportunities for students as leaders and members of the museum crew. Job descriptions and applications are posted.

- Students are invited to conduct an interview for the Veteran's History Project (VHP). If you know a veteran or someone who lived through the Korean Conflict era, please speak to us about arranging an interview. The VHP has specific guidelines and requirements, so this activity needs to be pre-approved. The completed interview will be sent to the National Archives. This is a wonderful way to honor a veteran.
- **Trips** - In addition to what is posted, we are trying to arrange a couple of trips.
 - Students will be asked to pay a fee for these trips covering the bus and admission.
 - On Thursday, May 5th we are scheduled to go to the Empire Beauty School for 1950s hairstyles for any interested students. Due to the need for advanced planning, the deadline for signing up for the salon is Monday, May 2, 2014. (This is a very popular activity and open to all students but does require a fee when they sign up.)

As we continue through the unit, information that you need will be emailed home and posted on the website. Students have access to any support they may need and should be consulting the website daily. If you have questions or want to get involved, please contact either Mr. Fortier or Ms. Coombs at any time.

Stay cool -
 Ron Fortier, Mary Coombs, Piper Cronin, Robin Ellwood, & Michelle Wirth

****Students - Please read this letter with a parent/guardian and have them sign it.**

Return the signed letter to Mr. Fortier by Friday, February 5, 2016. This counts as a "turn in" assignment.**

I have read the above information.

_____ Date _____
 Parent/guardian signature

_____ Section _____
 Student name (Please print)