Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**“An American Worth Remembering” Dinner Program**

**WHAT:** Dinner served by 7th and 8th grade students to family and friends to celebrate our study of American history and celebrate their knowledge of Americans whose lives changed history. Following dinner, students will share “trailers,” promoting documentaries on the lives of these “Americans Worth Remembering.”

**WHEN:** May 7, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Bowman Hills School Gymnasium

**COST:** A minimal fee will be charged to cover the cost of the food

**WHO is Invited:** Due to limited space, students will invite only parents (and other

close family members) and their prayer pals as well as the pastors and school staff/faculty. Each table seats 8. We will request an RSVP and ask about diet restriction when invitations are given. The meal will be vegan friendly.

**What to Wear:** Students may dress as the person they researched or in formal attire.

**IMPORTANT DATES for students to keep in mind:**

**Approximate Due Dates:**

* **Reading biography fully read -- March 9**
* **Research Paper due -- April 20**
* **Handcrafted Table object DUE -- April 27**
* **All other table decorations DUE -- May 1**
* **PowerPoint Trailer COMPLETE -- May 1**

**Biography Project: An American Worth Remembering**

Imagine that you have been asked to help research for a documentary series entitled *Americans Worth Remembering.* The series is designed to introduce each of the people our class researches and explain why that individual is worth remembering in American history. Through the research and writing of your American Worth Remembering Project you will become an expert on the life of an American who made an important and positive contribution to our nation’s history (after Civil War). You will be writing a research paper about your individual which supports a claim about the importance of their contribution to history. You will also write a trailer for the program in the documentary series dealing with the important contributions of your researched individual. The final component of the project will be a dinner theater where we will share your video trailers with your parents and other visitors. For the dinner, you will decorate a table with objects which relate to your topic; one of these objects must be something you create—a model, artifact, etc. As the server, you may dress in formal attire or dress as the person you researched (with permission). As you serve visitors you will share about your research topic and answer questions.

**Components of the American Worth Remembering Project:**

1. **Choose a famous American to research:**

Person must be historically significant. What does this mean?

* They made a positive contribution which affects a large number of people
* Their contribution affected a large area
* Their contribution has had an impact over an extended time period (no one currently living)

Please choose someone about whom you can find a biography or autobiography in our school or class library (even if it is not at your reading level). Check with Mrs. Hunt and receive her okay for this decision!

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Person Chosen \_\_\_\_\_Mrs. Hunt’s OKAY

2. **Research Paper written in MLA format with Works Cited**

* Write a thesis—claim regarding why the individual is worth remembering
* Prepare a working outline (to help you organize information)
* Read a biography or autobiography about the individual
* Create at least 10 (preferably more) notecards in correct form from your book
* Read and annotate at least 2 other sources (Mrs. Hunt will provide these)
* Writing will include in-text citations in MLA format
* Include a Works Cited page

NOTE: This is not just a summary of the person’s life. The writing should highlight why this person is worth remembering

3. **Hand-crafted Artifact or model related to the person’s life**

Create, build, form something that relates to your person’s life which can be part of the centerpiece of your table. (The creation may be made from a kit, but needs to require your time and effort.) Though you may have input and guidance from an adult, the work should be yours. A rubric will be provided, but the basic guidelines are as follows:

* original, hand-crafted object (YOU make it!)
* large enough to be part of the centerpiece of your table but small enough to be a centerpiece
* appropriate to the researched individual’s life (i.e., an early airplane model for Wilber Wright)
* neat, well-constructed showing much time and effort
* sturdy and able to withstand transport
* as historically accurate and to scale as possible

**4. Table Decorations**

Aside from your created object, you also need to prepare decorations for your table’s centerpiece. You may use any objects or books appropriate to the subject. The table will be graded for attractiveness, effort, and creativity. The following items are required on every table:

* A framed 5” x 7” photograph of the person
* An attractively lettered placard giving the person’s name – large enough to be seen clearly
* Your created model or object
* Small, business card-sized handout for each of your guests containing an inspirational quote from the individual and their name

You will need to find other small things (if necessary) to decorate the table. Remember, it will be the centerpiece for one of the round tables we use in the gym.

**5. Presentation – PowerPoint or Video Trailer**

You will create a PowerPoint “Trailer.” It will be an advertisement for the documentary on your person’s life. This will be no longer than 2 minutes. Mrs. Hunt will specify the guidelines, provide a rubric, and offer class time for this piece of the project once the research piece is complete. Your PowerPoint will need to include photos or videos as well as writing and voice over recording.