

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Your child is about to begin an incredibly exciting social studies project. For this project, students must recreate an 1870 living situation at home. Students will live as if it were 1870 for two weeks, then write a three-page report on their experience. Living out history is the best way to study it, and this experience will stay with your child for life. Because students are not able to do many of the requirements without assistance, your help is requested to make sure your child can complete this activity.

First, you will need to remove any technology from your home which will interfere with the continuity of this experience. This includes:

- TV or tablets: Please find means of entertainment by reading, knitting, talking, acting out plays, throwing horseshoes, or chasing a giant wheel with a stick through the streets.
- Music players: Students will need to make their own music with other family members. Singing, playing instruments, and clapping will have to do. Learning the harmonica is worth five bonus points to the total grade.
- Phones and email: Communication from the school will be sent by regular mail for the following two weeks. If there are any incidents during the school day, a carrier pigeon will arrive at your door with an urgent message.
- Microwaves, electric or gas ovens and stovetops: Please do all cooking over the fireplace.
- Refrigerators: Food will need to be purchased every day or two in order to remain fresh.
- Dishwasher: Dishes must be washed by hand in a tub with water brought from outdoors.
- Washing machine and dryer: clothes must be washed outside in a large tub, scraped over a washing board, then hung on a clothesline to dry.
- Running water: All washing of hands must be done with water brought from outside and poured over the hands from one bowl to another. Bathing will be done indoors, but water must be heated over the fireplace, then carried to the bath, so bathing more than once a week will not be logistically possible. For bathroom visits, you will need to dig a pit in the backyard, build a small, wooden shack around it, and use whatever non-toilet paper products can be found, such as leaves, old newspaper, or pinecones.
- Heating or air conditioning: Heating can be done by the fireplace (wood-burning only). Manual fans may be used to cool off in hot weather.
- Cars: Students will need to travel to school on foot or by horse and buggy. Bicycles are not yet in use.

Please be aware that failure to comply with any of these items will result in a 5% decrease in your child's overall social studies grade.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated,

And Happy April Fool's Day!