



## First Block is Finished!

For second semester, our schedule is different than normal. To help with the additional work that online school brings, we are doing classes in 6 week blocks and then a week off. I think this will definitely help with the fatigue I was seeing in students last semester. So we have finished our first six week block. I will share a little bit of the highlights of this first block in this letter. But one of the things I decided I needed to do for me was to do a little bit of decorating in my classroom. So whereas it is not completely set up, I made it a little less "drab". See the photo collage below.

---



## First Block Highlights

In my 7th grade class, I am teaching World History. We started this semester with the Renaissance. I shared in my last update about their "Be Like Michelangelo" assignment and some of their artwork. They all did an amazing job. I also had them "experience" the life of a scribe before the printing press. I gave them several Google Slides of information that they had to copy exactly as they saw it on the slide. And I did things like indented paragraphs differently, underlined words, cAPitaliZEd words in unusual places. There were about 6 slides they had to copy during a 20 minute period of time. Then they had a reflection activity they had to do. Here are some of the questions I asked with my favorite responses.

### **How did you feel while doing this activity?**

I- felt very tired and thought that my hand will fall off.

-My hand was like on fire.

-AGONY. My hand felt bad. I was worried I would do it wrong.

-I had so, so, so much fun! I loved how we got to experience how people before the printing press felt. I think we should get to experience what happened back then more.

-I felt those 20 minutes lasted forever.

**What was easy about this activity?**

Nothing was easy

**What was difficult about this activity?**

Something hard was not giving up at times.

**What do you think life as a scribe was like?**

-I think it was a very hard life for a scribe because I only wrote like 2 paragraphs but the scribe had to write a book so I guess their hand hurted very much.

-Oh, that is sadness and hard because a little mistake will let him do whole work again.

**Without looking back, what do you remember about Johannes Gutenberg?**

Nothing, I was too focused on copying correctly.

In my 8th grade United States history class, we looked at Andrew Jackson. They had to look at several events that happened during his presidency and decide was he "Heads or Tails". Heads is "democratic, sophisticated, saint." Tails is "autocratic, atrocious, savage". We looked at things like the Spoils System, Trail of Tears, Universal Male Suffrage, things that he vetoed (bank and Maysville Road) and the Nullification Crisis with South Carolina. I was really impressed with their thoughts as they looked this events and decided how they felt about his presidency.

In my 8th grade Phippine history class, we looked at the Filipinos fight for independence and how they struggled to be unified in their efforts. Again as we looked at the idea of unity and how important that is for an independence fight, I was very impressed with their critical thinking.

One of my favorite times of the week is Friday's Advisory class. I co-lead a group of 9 seventh grade girls. This is a time of spiritual encouragement, checking in with the girls and other fun activities. This is a non-academic class and is just a time to chat. It usually goes for about 1 hour or sometimes 1 1/2 hours. I love being able to just talk with the

girls and just have fun with them. I included a picture my co-advisor made of our group. I have really grown to love these girls.



## Prayer Requests

\*We are at the end of the first six week block. Pray that staff, students and their families can have a restful week off. I will be headed to the beach for a couple of days this week with some of my friends. I am looking forward to the time away and to just rest.

\*Pray for my family in New Jersey. About 2 weeks ago, my mother and brother traveled to Florida for the Daytona 500 and to visit my aunt. The very day they arrived at my aunt's house, my cousin (who lives with her) received a positive result on his Covid test. Later that week, my aunt started to show symptoms and tested positive. My mother was tested in Florida and was negative but was told it may have been too soon for a test. She started to show symptoms as she and my brother drove back to New Jersey, last Monday. Besides my mother's age, she has other health factors that makes her high risk for complications. Please be praying for her recovery. My brother, as a volunteer fire fighter, completed his second

vaccination shot before leaving for Florida. He has yet to show any symptoms. Pray also for my sister who lives at my mother's house, that she will not get it. And pray for me, it is hard being so far away with my mother being sick.

*Copyright © 2021*

**My mailing address is:**

Diana Muenzenberger

MCPO Box 2016

0706 Makati City

Philippines