

LES Young Historians Newsletter

"History is written by the victors."
— Winston Churchill



September, 2019

Volume 1, Issue 1

Changes in DBQ
Essay
Please Read
Page 2

American History & the Lower East Side!

Welcome back

MAT students and families to another exciting school year at PS126/Manhattan Academy of Technology. This is no ordinary school year: a chapter in your life is about to end while you embark on a new beginning.

For those of you who do not know who I am, my name is Alfonso Guerriero, and I am entering my twentieth year at PS 126/MAT.

I have taught 6th, 7th, & 8th grade social studies at PS126/MAT and 8th grade American history is by far the history that I enjoy the most.

As an undergraduate student in college, I studied a great deal of European immigration, which is one of the required units of study



Above photo- Alfonso Guerriero leads the *Five Points Walking Tour*. Eight grade social studies students attend walking tours throughout the school year to learn about their school's neighborhood. Families will be notified in advance about the times and dates of the walking tours.

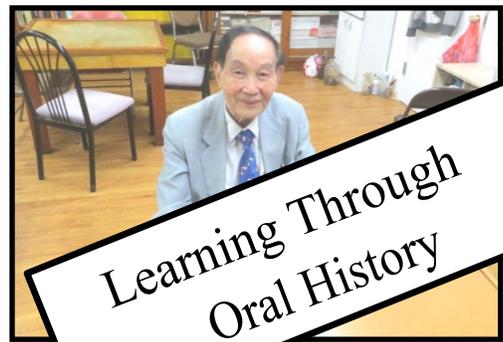
for the eighth grade social studies curriculum.

My interest in the subject of immigration is because my father was an immigrant. He arrived in this country to pursue the "American Dream" and worked two jobs to provide for his family.

My family lived in NYC (Alphabet City) for most of our lives, and it was there that I attended public elementary school.

Mr. Guerriero can be reached via email: aguerriero126@gmail.com & (class 800) Mr. Chris Piccigallo- cpiccigallo126@gmail.com or call tel: 212-962-2188 & please visit our website www.lesyounghistorians.com

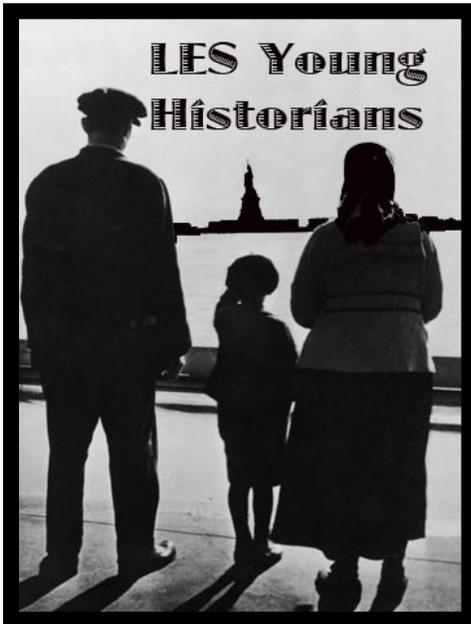
I have, therefore, a special affinity for the LES neighborhood. This year, like most school years in the past, I am very excited about the 8th grade social studies curriculum because we are going to teach this part of American history through studying the school's neighborhood.



Learning Through Oral History

Above picture—
— In 2018 World War II Flying Tigers Veteran, and Chinatown resident, Peter Woo, at 100 years old sat down for an oral history project. As one of their projects this year, eight grade students will learn about how to conduct an oral history interview and have the option to create a documentary based on the life of an immigrant.

The LES Young Historians Curriculum & DBQ Changes



This year all eight-grade students will have a unique opportunity to be part of the **LES Young Historians curriculum during the school year**. The main objective of the program, which began in 2013, and was created, by Christopher Piccigallo & Alfonso Guerriero, is to teach American history to our 8th graders by learning about the school's LES neighborhood. Our school is nestled within a neighborhood that has a wealth of history.

All eighth graders will not only learn American history but will also gain insight to their own cultural heritage through our studies.

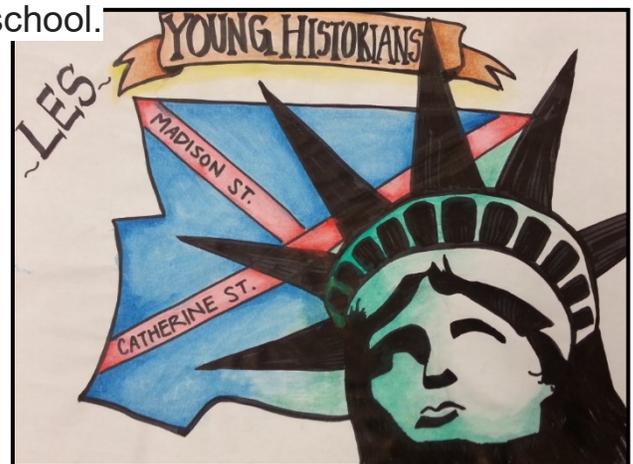
Our program is distinct from most middle schools because we teach students to become historians/researchers as well as use elements of ethnography that include:

1. explore our school's neighborhood by going on organized walking tours and museum trips.
2. examine 19th century artifacts.
3. use our ephemera collection and taste various cultural foods from LES to determine the history and the similarities/differences of ethnicities.
4. when possible, conduct oral history interviews with local residents.

Furthermore, our lessons emphasize content/skills based on specific units. The content and skills that are studied and learned along with their written reflections, will prepare students for high school.

Changes to DBQ Essay

In the past students were required to practice writing a Document Based Question (DBQ) essay. The DBQ was a thematic based essay given to them in high school. This year the New York State Educational Board has eliminated the exam and replaced it with an **Enduring Issues Essay**. An enduring issue is a challenge or **problem** that has been debated or discussed across time. As in the past, we will begin to prepare students for this new exam before they enter high school.



What is the Eighth Grade Social Studies Curriculum?

What will 8th graders learn this year? According to New York City Scope & Sequence K-8 Social Studies curriculum,—<http://schools.nycenet.edu/offices/teachlearn/ss/SocStudScopeSeq.pdf> (please download the curriculum.) 8th graders are required to learn the following: The Role of Gentrification on LES (neighborhood study), Industrial Revolution, Immigration, Progressive Movement, Roaring Twenties, Great Depression, Yellow Journalism, US Imperialism, World War I and II, & the Cold War. These topics will be covered through particular units in accordance to the *Common Core Standards*. I strongly encourage you to download these standards on our website-www.lesyounghistorians.com.

Teacher Communication & What Can Families

Do To Help Their Child Succeed?

Attention Parents/Students:

1. Major Announcements, Homework Assignments and Project Due Dates will be posted on www.lesyounghistorians.com

2. To download the 8th grade local history curriculum and learn more about our unique curriculum please go to

www.lesyounghistorians.com.

Homework is written everyday on the classroom's whiteboard and will be posted on our website. my email-
aguerriero126@gmail.com

What can parents do to support their child?

1. To help your child please read this newsletter & for information regarding the 8th grade curriculum, resources or other information related to the school year-please visit our website—
www.lesyounghistorians.com
2. Please make sure your child is following up with his/her weekly reflections and projects. We will also cover current events at least once a week and students are required to read and/or listen to the news everyday for at least 15 to 20 minutes.

An Interesting Fact about Our School's Neighborhood.

The first Presidential mansion (some would say the first White House) was located, near our school. Can you imagine George Washington strolled the same streets as our students and few are aware of this interesting fact? This is just one of the many examples of our neighborhood's rich history. Students will be learning a great deal about local history and applying it to the themes of American History.

**Attention
Families/Students**



The above picture is where President George Washington lived in the first White House, just a few blocks from our school,

ATTENTION: STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Homework is always written on the Classroom's Whiteboard & appears on our website. Students are required to read/and or listen to current events every night for 15 to 20 minutes and complete a weekly unit reflection based on what they learned in the classroom.

Student/Family Supply List

Supply List

- *1 (3-5 subject-**red if possible**) Notebook
- *1-**red plastic pocket** folder.
- *1 ream of loose-leaf paper & printer paper.
- *ample supply of pens & pencils.

Suggested Class List--

- *Tissues
- *Hand soap

Please keep in mind no student should enter any classroom without being prepared for class, this is inexcusable and points will be deducted from his/her grade. If possible, please purchase boxes of tissues and soap for your child. Products like these are essential for classrooms to prevent the spread of germs.

I look forward to meeting everyone during the school year. Thank you!

