



Dear Families,

Our class is continuing our unit on the Holocaust as outlined in our district's curriculum map. We have read the play *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Elie Wiesel's speech entitled *After Auschwitz*, and excerpts from Anne Frank's *The Diary of a Young Girl*. We are now beginning *Night*, by Elie Wiesel.

Tomorrow, February 22, 2017, I am happy to share that we will have a guest speaker in class. Rabbi Jay Sherwood of Congregation El Emanuel is going to visit with our English 8 Honors class to give students further background information about the Holocaust and answer questions that they may have. This is an excellent opportunity for our students that I am sharing with you in order to keep you informed.

Learning about the Holocaust helps students:

- understand the danger of remaining uninvolved in the face of attacks on others' rights
- gain a perspective on the ways a modern industrial nation used technology and government bureaucracy to crush dissent and carry out mass murder based on bigotry and hate
- take responsibility, as citizens of a democracy, for maintaining an open, tolerant society and safeguarding democratic institutions and values.¹

In studying the Holocaust, students face up to issues of fairness, justice, peer pressure, and conformity—issues they confront in their daily lives.

Please talk with your son or daughter about the Holocaust. As we read *Night*, they may have questions that they want to discuss with you. Thank you for continuing to support and encourage your child along their educational journey. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Cullen
Cope Middle School
English 8/8H, WEB Coordinator

¹ Moger, Susan. *Teaching the Diary of Anne Frank: An In-depth Resource for Learning about the Holocaust through the Writings of Anne Frank*. New York: Scholastic Teaching Resources, 2009.