

August 25, 2009

Parents/Guardians,

I am glad to be able to write you and tell you that we are going to begin a bonus project. I am going to lay out to you the requirements for this project because it will require your assistance to get this done.

- This project will be focused around the historical highway markers that you may see along the roadways (**North Carolina signs only**). Each one is placed there to draw attention to an important person, place, or event. They are normally white signs with black letters; however, I have seen a few as black signs with white or gold lettering – any one of those will count. If there is any question, bring it to me and I will let you know.
- The students will need to have a photograph taken of the sign (they do not/should not have to be in it - there are some places that could be really dangerous) and the sign must be readable from the photograph. The **entire sign** must be seen in the photograph. If **any part of the sign** (pole does not count) is cut off in the photograph, **it will not be accepted!** (see examples below) The photographs will need to be either a 4"x 6" or a 5"x 7" and can be on photo paper or regular copier paper. **The main point is that the signs must be easily readable!!** (and I shouldn't need a magnifying lens either). A helpful hint is that the signs should occupy about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the picture – less and it can get too small, more and you risk cutting off a portion of the sign.
- The students must find out more information about the subject of the sign. If the sign is about a person, then they must find out more information about that person. If the sign is about a place, then they must find out more information about that specific place, and so on and so forth. They will need to have at least six (6) more complete sentences on that specific subject matter that is not already covered by the sign. The sentences must be in proper paragraph format, complete with the first sentence indented. The sentences must work together (relate), so that the paragraph flows within the subject matter. Please make sure the paragraph is able to fit on the back of the photograph, because I will glue it to the back and place it on the bulletin board. (If you would like to go ahead and attach it, that is fine).
- The students must know **exactly** where it came from along the highway. They will have to come in to class and show me exactly where on the map that they got this sign. They should know where exactly on a road that the sign was located – just telling me Shelby will not work. I need to know at what intersection, how far along this road, or how far off that road the sign is located. I will take the photo and attach it to the bulletin board and run a piece of string to that point on the map. I do a quite a bit of traveling, and if I discover that they do not have the right location, then the points that they received will be taken away! **Write location below the paragraph so that both can be attached to the photograph.**
- The students will have to present their photograph, bonus report paragraph, and location to the class. This is a must so that all of the students can learn the information from the sign and the report. It is also important so that the students can see what signs have already been done, because these signs are a first come, first serve assignment, there are no repeats – **once a sign has been photographed and recorded, no one else IN ANY OF MY CLASSES can do it – First come, First serve!!**

- The photos (and everything else mentioned) will be worth five (5) bonus points apiece onto a project grade. If we do not have a project on the grades at the point it is turned in, the bonus points will be added to a test grade. Please remember that this will be the only bonus assignment that I will offer the entire school year and it will last the entire school year. **The cut-off date for turning any in is May 31, 2010.** If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at rjpletcher@clevelandcountyschools.org.
- **IMPORTANT!!** I am the final say-so on whether or not the points are awarded. I will decide if the picture and the paragraph meet the standards set. I am doing this to provide the students opportunities to help their grades. If I do not accept their picture, then I will tell them why so that they can attempt to correct it and turn it back in.
- I will not be able to send home lists updating the signs that have been retrieved. What I can do is try and keep the list updated on my portion of the school's website: <http://www.clevelandcountyschools.org/schools/cms/teacherpages/rpletcher.htm> . If you do not have access to the Internet, then the student will need to maintain a list of those that have already been taken.

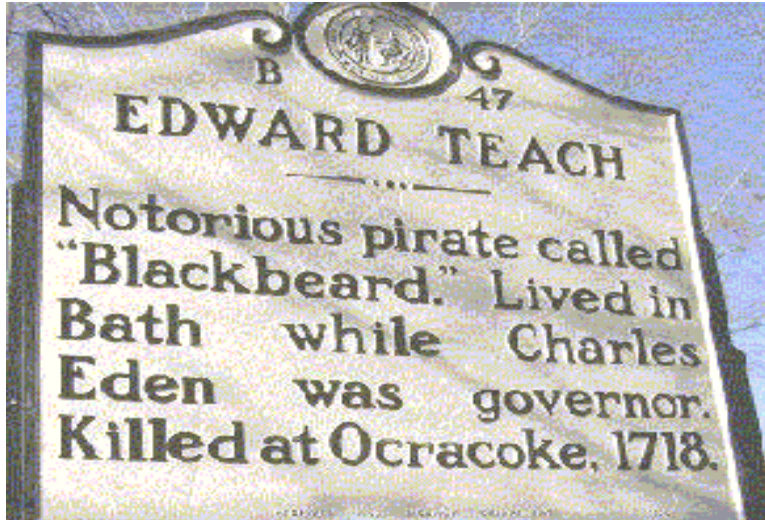
Mr. Pletcher

Examples:

Sign is barely readable, but the entire sign is shown in the picture. However, sign should be larger in the picture. Verdict: **Unacceptable.**



The sign is readable, however, the top and bottom portions of the sign have been cut off. Verdict: **Unacceptable**



This sign is readable – not too close, not too far. It takes up about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the picture. Verdict: Practically Perfect

