

## 8SS Newsletter – 2.1.21

Hello 8th Grade Families,

In Social Studies, the students are beginning their study of the 1920s. People called the 1920s the Jazz Age - in part because of the popular new music - but also because of the restless, carefree spirit of the time. The economy boomed and many Americans prospered. Many Americans, however, did not share in the economic gains of this era. The 1920s produced striking new changes in American society. New forms of entertainment such as radio and film remain popular today. The automobile forever changed the American way of life. It helped shift homes, shops, and factories from the inner cities to the suburbs.

Students will begin by comparing the presidency of Harding, with his call for "normalcy" and administration of corruption, to the presidency of Coolidge and his impression of honesty on the American people. Students will next examine and organize the factors that affected economic growth in the "Roaring Twenties." We will explore the culture of the time while focusing on two concepts: the cult of beauty and the cult of personality. We will look at new forms of entertainment and music, and analyze primary source advertisements. Students will then examine the Jazz Age and the Harlem Renaissance, focusing on the poet Langston Hughes. They will analyze his poems and their impact on the decade. We will also tie in the topics of discrimination and nativism at this point, and finally, students will focus on prohibition and politics during that decade.

The students are also continuing their Media Literacy Unit. They will be discussing lessons on Personalization Algorithms, Arguments & Evidence, and Branded Content. We will then focus on analyzing images and new source reliability.

All materials and assignments are posted on Google Classroom. Please let me know if you have any questions.

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Mrs. Esquivel