As part of our celebration of the Renaissance, all seventh grade students will complete the Renaissance Project described in this packet. Completed projects will be displayed in our Renaissance Museum from April 18 through April 20, 2012.
The Elements of the Renaissance Project

Students will be given classroom and homework time in order to complete their Renaissance projects. Intermediate deadlines will be included on World History and English assignment sheets.

The following is a checklist of items that students will need to have to complete their Renaissance work.

Research

Following their selection of a Renaissance subject, students will spend time researching in Parker library books and databases for information about their subject matter’s role in the Renaissance. During the research process, students will develop library, reading, note-taking, and writing skills.

Renaissance Exhibit or Web Site

Each student will create a three-sided exhibit board or web site as part of their Renaissance project. The board or web site will support the thesis statement developed during the research process.

Works Cited

All research should be cited and annotated using Noodle Tools.

Oral Presentations

Students will present their projects to their history classes. The purpose of the presentations is to convey information about different aspects of the Renaissance to an audience of peers.

Costume

Students should come to school on Friday, April 20 dressed in Renaissance garb. Check your Renaissance Costume packet for suggestions for putting together a homemade costume, renting a costume, or borrowing a costume from an older Parker student.
The Research Process

The most important element of the Renaissance Project is research. Learning targets for the Renaissance Project research process include:

- How to use resources in the Francis Parker Library to find reliable, readable articles and books about a Renaissance subject.
  - Understanding the parts of the Library Web Site.
  - Assessing articles and books for readable and useful information.
- Reading research materials and taking margin notes for increased understanding of the material.
- Organizing research material using note cards, outline notes, or Cornell notes, order to answer one or more of the essential questions of the project (see below).
- Using reliable resources to find images that provide supporting evidence for the thesis statement, topic sentences, and key ideas.
- Citing and annotating research materials in a Works Cited.

The Writing Process

The writing on a student’s exhibit should flow out of the research process. It should also reflect the elements of a good multi-paragraph essay.

- Thesis Statement: This is an argument that makes a connection between the subject of the project and the ideals of the Renaissance by answering one or more of the following essential questions:
  - How does my subject represent the ideals of the Renaissance?
  - Why is my subject important to the Renaissance?
  - What contributions did my subject make to the Renaissance?
- Topics: These are three main areas through which the subject represented or contributed to the Renaissance.
- Key Ideas: These are subtopics that support the topics and thesis statement. Each Topic should be supported by one or two key ideas.
- Supporting Evidence: Each Key Idea should be supported by one or two images, maps, or primary source quotes.
Renaissance Project Glossary

Renaissance: French word meaning rebirth or revival. Used to refer to the transitional movement in Europe between medieval and modern times, marked by a humanistic revival of classical influence and expressed in a flowering of the arts and literature and by the beginning of modern science. It was a period of time with vigorous and lasting artistic and intellectual activity.

Humanism: This is the Renaissance belief that human endeavors are as important as religious study. An interest in human society and individual endeavor and the spread of ideas during the Renaissance were all a part of humanism.

Humanism includes...

Classical Study: Renaissance humanists spent time studying classical writers, artists, philosophers and scientists. They took the ideas of the ancient Greeks and Romans and infused them with new ideas to create Renaissance literature, art, architecture, philosophy, and science.

Education: Education became more widespread and less focused on religious ideas during the Renaissance. A Renaissance education included the study of languages (ancient and modern), reading, writing and some science and geography. There was an emphasis on individual reason.

Observation: Renaissance scientists and explorers used their own observations to revise previous scientific theories and develop a new understanding of the world. Renaissance writers and philosophers wrote about their observations of human nature and human society.

Realism: An interest in nature and the world as it was flourished during the Renaissance. Artists sought to capture the world more accurately using techniques such as perspective. Explorers and scientists both endeavored to create a more realistic understanding of the natural world.

Secularism: Renaissance society emphasized non-religious ideas as much as religious ones. Political leaders became more powerful than religious leaders. Trade, music, and the arts grew to be as popular as religion. Protestant religions such as Anglicanism emphasized secular ideas.

Individualism: Renaissance people could be defined by their actions, not the social class into which they were born. A merchant could become wealthy through trade. Explorers could bring fame and wealth to themselves and their country. Political leaders were judged by their actions.
Renaissance Project Elements

**Subject:** This is the subject matter about which the student will write/prepare a board, i.e., *Martin Luther*. The subject should be included in the title of the project.

**Thesis Statement:** A statement that makes an argument about the subject’s relationship to/importance in the Renaissance, Reformation, or Scientific Revolution. *Martin Luther embodied the Renaissance ideal of humanism.*

**Plan Sentence:** This can be a separate sentence that outlines the three topics to be covered in the project, or it can be a clause in the thesis statement. *Martin Luther embodied the Renaissance ideal of humanism. He challenged the ideas of the Catholic Church by translating the Bible into German, posting his 95 Theses, and sparking the Reformation.*

**Topic:** One of the main parts of the project that support the thesis. The topics should be posted as section headings on the board. Each topic should also be supported by a topic sentence and at least two key ideas.

- German Translation of the Bible
- 95 Theses
- Reformation

**Key Ideas:** Two or more ideas that support the topics covered in the project.

- German Translation of the Bible
  - Printed by Gutenberg’s printing press, the German translation allowed more people to read the Bible.
  - Allowed people to have a direct relationship with God.
  - Reduced the power/influence of the Catholic Church.

**Supporting Evidence:** Images and/or primary source quotes that support the topics and key ideas. These should be accompanied by captions that explain the significance of the image or quote and a brief source citation.
The Renaissance Museum Exhibit

Project Board Guidelines

- **Project Display Board:** Free standing dimensions approximately 36” - 48” unfolded. Most students obtain a typical three-sided foam core display board from Office Depot, Staples, or Michaels.
- **Title:** Creatively demonstrates the subject of your board
- **Thesis statement:** One paragraph explaining your subject and how it relates to the Renaissance. This should include a plan sentence.
- **Three sections** designed to support your thesis. Each section should include:
  - A topic sentence and key ideas
  - Supporting evidence such as images, maps, quotes, primary source documents, with captions that explain how the evidence supports your thesis and a brief source citation.
- **Conclusion:** One paragraph analyzing and summarizing the important points in your exhibit.
- **Timeline** of five (5) to ten (10) important events that give your subject historical context or **Glossary** of five (5) to ten (10) important terms relevant to the understanding of their subject.
- Card with the student’s name, history teacher, English teacher, and the year should be on the bottom front corner of the board.
- All information should be neat and typed. No handwriting, please.

**Hot Tips for a Cool Board**

- **Plan** ahead to avoid unnecessary trips to supply stores
- Choose colors for your board and cardstock that are appropriate for your subject
- Cover your exhibit with fabric or paint it in the style of the Renaissance
- Create a border that will enhance your subject. See classroom samples for ideas.
- Print your text and images on photo paper to get a more professional finish.
- Mount images on colored cardstock or foam core to give your project a 3-D effect
- Use a readable font, large enough for use-friendly readability (14-point or larger)
- Create a display of 3-D objects, models, or artifacts on or in front of your board
- Choose adhesive that is compatible with your material
  - Spray glue eats styrofoam
  - Double-sided tape doesn’t work on fabric
- Allow ample time for glue to dry/white glue warps or ripples paper so avoid it
- Use a paper cutter to make sure that edges are straight
- Organize your board to maximize the size of images and minimize blank space.
- Add your own personal touches to your board. HAVE FUN!
The Renaissance Web Site

Web Site Guidelines

• Use GoogleApps, Weebly, or a pre-approved web site designing tool. Be sure to give your URL to your teacher.
• Title page: Include a creative title that demonstrates the subject of your project, add your name, your history teacher, your English teacher, and the year. You should also have an image on your title page.
• Thesis statement: One paragraph explaining your subject and how it relates to the Renaissance. This should include a plan sentence.
• Three pages designed to support your thesis. Each page should include:
  o A topic sentence and key ideas
  o Supporting evidence such as images, maps, quotes, primary source documents, with captions that explain how the evidence supports your thesis and a brief source citation.
• Conclusion: A page, with one paragraph analyzing and summarizing the important points in your exhibit. Support your Conclusion with an image or quote.
• Timeline of five (5) to ten (10) important events that give your subject historical context or Glossary of five (5) to ten (10) important terms relevant to the understanding of their subject.

Hot Tips for a Cool Web Site

• Only select the web site option if you already know how to make a web site.
• Choose colors for your background and text that are appropriate for your subject.
• Use a readable font, large enough for use-friendly readability and not too fancy.
• Use tables and columns to place your supporting images next to your text, for a balanced design.
• Organize your website to balance elements and blank space.
• Use other well-designed websites for ideas for how to create a well-designed website.
• Use historically appropriate music to enhance the effect of your site.
• HAVE FUN!
Works Cited

Each Renaissance project should be supported by at least three sources from the Parker Library.

• Web sites may only be used as sources if they are accompanied by a student evaluation form and approved by your teacher or librarian.
• Google images is not a reliable source for images. Ask your teacher or librarian for suggestions about how to find good images for your project.
• Use NoodleTools to cite your sources using the MLA Starter mode.
• Citations should each be accompanied by a robust annotation, using the guidelines below.

The citation:

  o Use NoodleTools for correct MLA format.
  o Make sure you are selecting the correct reference type for your source. **When in doubt, ask a teacher or librarian.**
  o Fill out as many of the elements in the NoodleTools form as possible.
  o Do NOT indent the first line. DO indent the following lines.
  o Alphabetize your entries according to the first item in your citation.

The annotation:

  o Tell us about your source and the kind of information you got from it.
  o Relate the source to your project. What did you learn from the source? How did the source help you complete your project?
  o Make sure that your annotation is meaningful and makes a connection between the source and your project.

Remember that the reasons for a works cited are to give credit to your sources and to provide insight into your research process.

When you put the citation and annotation together, it looks like this:


This book has a diagram of a mosque, with all the different parts labeled. I used it to make a plan for my own mosque, although I made the ablution fountain larger and had to add a minbar and dome. The diagram also gave me the idea to leave one side of my mosque open, so that viewers could see inside.

**NOTE:** When using NoodleTools, be sure to export your citations and annotations to Word so that you can format your final Works Cited nicely.
Oral Presentation

Each student will give a 5 to 10-minute oral presentation about her/his project.

- The presentation should be well-organized and deliver information in a manner that is easy to understand.
  - Open your presentation with an attention-grabber, like a story
- Students should explain their thesis statement.
- Students should explain their subjects’ role in the Renaissance.
- The presentation should explain how the topic and key ideas of each section of the exhibit supports the thesis.
- Student should know their subject matter.
  - Tell interesting stories about your subject to engage your audience.
  - Be prepared to answer questions.
- How I Did My Research
  - The presentation should explain the research process
  - Explain what you learned about research
- How I Built My Project
  - Emphasize the strengths of the board
  - Did you have any challenges? How did you overcome them?
- Students should practice their presentations so they can:
  - Speak clearly and articulately
  - Maintain eye contact
  - Maintain audience interest

*The Musicians* by Caravaggio, c. 1595
The Metropolitan Museum of Art
Renaissance Project Grading Rubric

I. Display Board or Web Site

Title & Name of Student (5 points)
- Creative, readable, appropriate to project
- Student name, history teacher, English teacher, and year

Thesis Statement & Plan (10 points)
- Labeled and well-written
- Provides a connection to the Renaissance
- Provides a road map to the project
- Supported by an image, with caption and brief source citation

Topic One (20 points)
- Title clear labels the topic on the board
- Well-written topic sentence explains how the topic supports the thesis statement
- Two to three well-written key ideas support the topic and thesis
- Supported by at least three images or quotes, with captions and brief source citations

Topic Two (20 points)
- Title clear labels the topic on the board
- Well-written topic sentence explains how the topic supports the thesis statement
- Two to three well-written key ideas support the topic and thesis
- Supported by at least three images or quotes, with captions and brief source citations

Topic Three (20 points)
- Title clear labels the topic on the board
- Well-written topic sentence explains how the topic supports the thesis statement
- Two to three well-written key ideas support the topic and thesis
- Supported by at least three images or quotes, with captions and brief source citations

(continued)
I. Display Board or Web Site (continued)

**Conclusion** (5 points)
- A well-written paragraph analyzes the importance of the subject in the Renaissance and makes a connection to modern day
- Supported by an image, with caption and brief source citation

**Timeline or Glossary** (10 points)
- 5-10 items related to the Renaissance subject
- Creatively and neatly presented

“**Style**” points for using “**Hot Tips for a Cool Board or Web Site**” (10 points)

Total Points: 100

II. Works Cited

- At least three (3) sources
  - Web sites may only be used as sources if they are accompanied by a student evaluation form and approved by your teacher or librarian.
  - Google images is not a reliable source for images. Ask your teacher or librarian for suggestions about how to find good images for your project.
- Use NoodleTools to cite your sources using the “MLA Starter” mode.
- Citations should each be accompanied by a **robust** annotation that explains the usefulness of each source
- Share your Works Cited in your teacher’s NoodleTools drop box

Total Points: 20

III. Renaissance Costume

- Come to school on Friday, April 20, dressed in Renaissance costume.
- Your costume does not need to match your research project.
- See your Costume Packet for details.

IV. Library Book Return

- Each student is responsible for returning his/her books to the library.
V. Oral Presentation

Each student will give a 5 to 10-minute oral presentation about her/his project in the week following the Renaissance Fair.

Organization and Presentation Style

- Presentation is well-organized and delivers information in a manner that is easy to understand
- Open your presentation with an attention-grabber
- Keep the audience engaged
  - Practice your presentation
  - Be articulate and maintain eye contact

Project Content

- Explain the thesis statement
- Emphasize the subject’s role in the Renaissance
- Present the topic and key ideas of each exhibit section
- Explain the images and how they support the topics and thesis

Knowledgability of the Subject Matter

- Student knows subject matter
- Tell interesting stories about your subject to engage your audience
- Be prepared to answer questions

Research and Project Construction Process

- Explain the research process
- What did you learn about the research process?
- Explain the process of making your project
- Emphasize the strengths of your project
- Any challenges? How did you overcome them?

Total Points: 20
Renaissance Project Timeline

Your teachers have created a timeline that will help you complete a great Renaissance project by April 18. In order to create the best possible project with the least amount of stress, it is important to keep up with the following deadlines.

- **March 5-9**: Research, gather reliable resources, read and take margin notes.
- **March 13-16**: Organize research using note cards, outline notes, or Cornell notes. Select three topics to organize the sections of the project. Cite and annotate sources in NoodleTools
- **March 19-22**: Write thesis statement and topic sentences Cite and annotate sources in NoodleTools
- **March 26-30**: Write key idea sentences Gather images and quotes as supporting evidence Organize information on a Project Outline in GoogleDocs Cite and annotate sources in NoodleTools

**Spring Break**

- **April 9-17**: Create project board or web site Cite and annotate sources in NoodleTools
- **Wednesday, April 18**: Renaissance Project Due
- **Friday, April 20**: Renaissance Fair Come to school dressed in Renaissance costume