



Dear Parent/Guardian:

As a parent myself, I've finally begun to realize how much all of you have invested in your child's education the past eleven years. Throughout your child's elementary school days you contributed financially and helped them academically and were able to witness them in numerous school events. I'm certain that this year you've contributed just as much to your child's education by ferrying them to events, helping them organize their group projects, and working with them on their homework and organization. Yet, except for extracurricular activities, I'm guessing you haven't had the opportunity to witness your child in the scholastic setting. Thus, likely over the strenuous objection of your kids for making them look "lame", we'd like to invite you to observe your children one last time on Thursday May 17th to the Taliban News conference which will start in the MAP Annex at 8:05 AM or 11:10AM (depending on your student's class) and last approximately 35 minutes.

During the 1990s, the Taliban swept to power in Afghanistan and imposed their strict interpretation of Islamic law. In this press conference, students playing the roles of important figures from around the world will give their reactions to the Taliban's conquering the country. The Taliban will announce their vision for Afghanistan, and then the remaining students will fill the roles of reporters representing international news-teams to cover this historic event. Each news-team will produce a storyboard for an unbiased news story about the press conference (90 seconds) and an editorial commentary delivered by your station's news analyst (45 seconds).

Every year the National Education Association sponsors a parent school visitation day with the tagline, "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility." The tagline represents NEA's vision of calling upon all Americans to do their part in making public schools great for every child so that they can grow and achieve in the 21st century. Though this isn't part of that event, I agree with their mission and appreciate your support of your son or daughter's education. The study of groups like the Taliban provides an effective subject for an examination of basic moral issues. "A structured inquiry into this history yields critical lessons for an investigation of human behavior. Study of the event also addresses one of the central mandates of education in the United States, which is to examine what it means to be a responsible citizen."

I know you probably will have very few opportunities left to watch your child in this type of setting before they are off to college so I'd like to encourage you to participate in this day. If you are going to attend, I would appreciate it if you could note you will come below. For more information on our current studies in World History class please check the class website at <http://www.getwellkathleen.us/worldhistory/modworld/mapassign.htm> and click on Unit 8.

Sincerely,

Mike Davey (Suzanne Herzman & Alex Hemmerich)
Social Studies Teacher
Saratoga High School

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read the information above on the "Parent Invite Letter".

Student's Signature: _____

Student Name Printed _____

Parent's Signature. _____

I will attend: _____

I will not attend: _____