January 4, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Next week your child will begin a project in Global Studies about the Middle East. Students may work in groups during the first two days of the project but must submit their own final product. For the 2013 national budget, President Obama has proposed $800 million dollars to be awarded to a Middle East country. Your child will choose a country to research and decide if the investment should be made in that particular country based of information about the country’s history, natural resources, government, military, standard of living, and current issues.

After students research these areas, your child will write a persuasive report addressing the President, explaining why their country should or shouldn’t be awarded the $800 million. Then, students will create 10 Tweets for the State Department’s Twitter account to announce and explain the decision to the American public.

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| **COUNTRY CHOICES TO RESEARCH:** | Saudi Arabia |
| Iraq | Syria |
| Israel | United Arab Emirates |
| Jordan | Yemen |
| Lebanon | Iran |

**Recommended Resources for Research:**

1. CIA Fact book - <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/wfbExt/region_mde.html>

2. Culture grams - [http://online.culturegrams.com/world/world\_region.php?contid=3&wmn= Asia](http://online.culturegrams.com/world/world_region.php?contid=3&wmn=%20Asia)

3. Global Envision - <http://www.globalenvision.org/teachers>

Students will be given four work days in class to complete the project but students are strongly recommended to work on this outside of school. If students need help accessing computers or assistance with the project, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am available to help students before school, during lunch, and after school. Please contact me if you have any questions!

Sincerely,

Rachel Smith

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***Parent/Guardian Comments or Questions:***

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_