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Delivering the Promise of a Brighter Future

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To the members of the Board of Education:

I am writing to seek approval to do the annual Civil War Day with the 7th grade students again this year on Friday, May 11th, 2018 from 8:00-2:30. This would be held at Riverview Park. I have contacted Fred Easton who has said that we could use the park for the event.

Students have studied the Civil War recently in their Social Studies class, and I would like to share my experiences as a Civil War re-enactor with the students. I have been appreciative that I have been able to do this event the past five years now and it has been a great success and therefore would like to do it again this year. I would be setting up tents and stations containing Civil War uniforms, Civil War civilian clothing, Civil War medicine equipment and Mr. Laurenza, from the Gouverneur Museum, would be setting up a station as well.

At the end of the day this year I would also like to have students participate in a mock battle reenactment to demonstrate knowledge they learned from each of the Civil War Day stations. Students would use marshmallow launchers in the reenactment.

The 7th grade students will be divided into “companies” to rotate and participate in several different Civil War learning activities. The learning stations students will go to are as follows:

- Station 1 - Civil War Medicine
 - Station 2 - School of the Soldier
 - Station 3 - Quill and Ink of the Civil War
 - Station 4 - Women in the Civil War
 - Station 5 - Mr. Laurenza – Civil War Museum displays
 - Station 6 - Civil War Trivia
 - Station 7 - Civil War Spy Ring
 - Station 8 - Farm Life in the Civil War
 - Station 9 – Haversack Chat
 - Station 10 – Civil War Kickball
- “Battle of Riverview Park”

In these stations, students will learn about the medicine used during the Civil War, clothing worn in the Civil War, music played, food eaten, what life was like for soldiers and civilians in the war, and what role spies played in the war. I am also seeking permission to bring in a Civil War era musket to show students what it looked like and to use to supplement my living history demonstration. Students would not touch the musket, and there would be no powder in the musket, it would be used for demonstration purposes only. I feel this has been a great activity for the students to participate in and learn more about the American Civil War. It has been a great success the past five years thanks to your support, and I am hoping to do this again this year with your approval.

Thank you,



Nicholas Costa
Middle School Social Studies Teacher