**Decades Project**

The purpose of the *Decades Project* is to learn more about the cultural events that happened in America between 1950 and 1999. This is a group project where you will research a particular decade and then do a 10 – 15 minute presentation to show what you have learned. Groups are encouraged to be creative in how they present the information. Try to make your presentation hands-on, and include as many cultural artifacts as possible. Have fun!!

Work Dates: Wednesday, May 9 – Wednesday, May 16

Presentation Date(s): Thursday, May 17 (groups will sign up for time)

The more you practice, the better your presentation will be. Your presentation should be equally split between the topics you present. Example- 3 minutes of photos from the decade and 12 minutes playing with a board game from the decade is not an even split of time.

**Ideas**:

Here are some ideas of things you can do. Feel free to use any of the ideas on the list and come up with some of your own as well. Be Creative!!!

* Dress up in the style of your decade and do a fashion show.
* Play clips from some of the popular music of your decade.
* Bring in snacks that were popular during your decade to share with your audience.
* Find toys and games that were popular during your decade and let the audience play with them.
* Make a timeline of the important events of your decade.
* Make a cultural collage of important pictures / items from your decade.
* Bring some of the inventions / technology of your decade and explain how they are used.
* Show clips from the famous T.V. shows and movies of your decade.
* Come up with a game to introduce important facts from your decade. Use movement if you can.
* Use PowerPoint to make a photo montage of your decade. This can be combined with music.
* Create a skit / video portraying an important event from your decade.
* Make a news show / talk show to present your information.
* Do a video / audio interview with someone who lived through your decade.

**Possible Questions to Consider:**

As you start gathering and organizing information for your project, here are some questions to think about. You do not necessarily need to answer all of these questions as part of your presentation. Pick the ones that your group finds interesting. Also, feel free to research topics that are not on the list.

1) What important events happened in America during your decade?

2) Who were the important political figures of your decade? What were their accomplishments?

3) What toys did kids play with during your decade? Were there any popular games kids played?

4) Were there any special foods or snacks people liked to eat during your decade?

5) What important sporting events occurred in your decade and who were the famous sports figures? Where were the Olympic Games held? Were there any new world records / memorable performances?

6) What styles of music were popular in your decade? Who were the most famous singers/groups?

7) What clothing styles were popular in your decade? What were popular hair styles? What did kids wear? What were popular sayings and (appropriate) slang terms used during your decade?

8) What types of transportation were used during your decade? What did the popular cars look like?

9) What was the average cost of some common products during your decade (car, house, bread, gas, etc.)?

10) How much money did the average person make per hour (minimum wage)?

11) What kinds of things did people do for fun (leisure) during your decade?

12) What new inventions / technology came about during your decade?

13) What was the population of the United States from the beginning to the end of your decade?

14) What were the popular movies and T.V. shows during your decade? What movies won Academy Awards?

15) What were some of the bestselling books of your decades? Who were some popular authors?

16) Did any important world events happen during your decade? Were there any major wars?

17) What were the fads (things that are popular for a short time) of your decade?