

# St. Monica Academy

## ANCIENT HISTORY

We are just about ready to wrap up our unit on Ancient Greece, during which we have analyzed battle formations and conducted seminars on the intricacies of Aristotle's political theories. After a brief detour to Ancient China before midwinter break, we'll begin our deep dive into the glories of Rome. Our study of Rome and early Christianity will take us through to the end of the year. Students have begun working on their trimester 2 paper (see due dates under "Important Dates"). They can choose between two topics: (1) the defining characteristic(s) of the Greek city-state and (2) the relationship between the state and military in Ancient Greece. I continue to be impressed by their willingness to engage the often difficult material at a deep level.

## ANCIENT LITERATURE

In literature class we've been reading Plato's Republic, one of the foundational texts of the Western philosophical canon, considering the question of what is morality. In seminar the students have made poignant observations and posed probing questions based on our reading. If not already, they are on the way to being bona fide lovers of wisdom. We also continue to practice formal grammar skills in editing and writing. Approaching the end of the trimester, their psalm projects should be well under way by now.

## LATIN ONE

Happy Black History Month! It is no surprise that Rome was a diverse population of people, spanning from Northern Africa, Greece and Turkey to the Middle East, West to Spain, and all the way up North to Belgium, Germany, and Great Britain; the empire was vast. In honor of this, we will be looking at a few famous ancient Romans: Emperor Septimus Severus, for whom a large triumphal arch was erected in the forum, Caracalla — namesake of the Baths of Caracalla — Quietus & Lollius Urbicus — governor of Roman Britain.

## ART

SMA students just completed their 2-point perspective city project. We're dividing into collage artworks using several media such as magazines, newspapers, folded paper, photographs, and more. This new lesson will be a month long at-home project that will be due when we meet on March 4th, where they will give a 2 minute presentation of their artwork to the class.

## GEOMETRY

We're learning about Trigonometry! This is a great time to discuss the cosine effect and avoiding speeding tickets with your teenage child.

## MUSIC

On the return from Christmas break, SMA began studying harmony theory with the application of chord progressions on ukuleles. Using the Epiphany carol *As with Gladness Men of Old* and the classic folk song *Country Roads, Take Me Home*, students are applying the I-IV-V progression and the I-V7-vi-IV-I chord progression while singing and strumming on ukulele.

### IMPORTANT DATES

February 4: History Thesis Due

February 11: Geometry Test

February 13: History Rough Draft Due

March 1: Geometry Test

March 4: Collage Artwork Project Due

March 11: History Paper 2 Final Draft Due

***Congratulations to Robert Mckenna, winner of January's Heart of God for the virtue of fidelity!***