

January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Dear Farmville Tour Guide,

Congratulations on being selected as one of thirty-three students in Rockingham County Public Schools to participate in the Farmville Tour Guides Project! This “student-led” field trip will take place on **Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016** – just two days before the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the student strike at R.R. Moton High School. The brave students at R.R. Moton not only forged a movement to equalize and integrate their local school system, but they were early pioneers of the wider civil rights struggle that later eradicated Jim Crow segregation from all walks of American public life. We can demonstrate our gratitude to them by presenting their story with the same passion, energy, and hard work that they exhibited in living it. A number of former Moton students as well as Dr. Fenn and members of the Rockingham County School Board will be joining us for the trip, so please make sure that you present your **best work!** I realize this makes the project seem a bit more daunting, but rest assured that the former Moton students are thrilled to have high school students learning about their lives. Dr. Fenn and the School Board not only want to see this project firsthand, but they’re eager to support you as student-leaders of our school division!

As you start your work in earnest, I would like to take this opportunity to pass along some suggestions and helpful hints. In order to understand the significance of your particular topic, you will need to familiarize yourself with the overall Farmville story. I highly suggest that you begin by visiting our companion website (<http://farmvilletourguides.rockingham.k12.va.us/>) and read the content of the PowerPoint that is featured on the “**Research**” page. In addition to this visual summary of the Farmville story, it would also be helpful to visit the “**Previous Trips**” page and read the *Daily News Record* article about last year’s event. The PPT will provide contextual understanding of the overall story, while the article will provide a fuller understanding of the “student-led” design of the field trip.

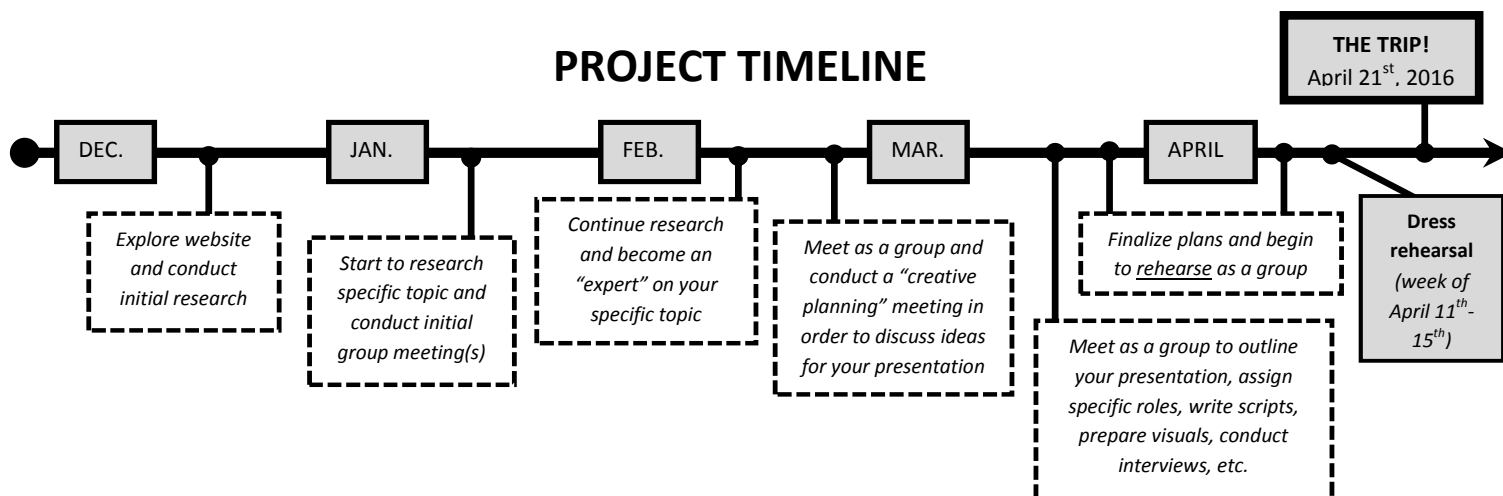
Given the *comprehensive* nature of this *collaborative* project, it is essential that you make regular progress and avoid procrastination – this is not an endeavor that you can put off until the last minute. If you have not done so already, please organize an initial meeting with your fellow group members in order to discuss general ideas concerning your topic. In addition to the resources you have been provided, you will also want to conduct additional research online. Once each of you has become an “expert” regarding your respective topic, your group should meet in order to outline the format of your presentation. Regardless of the format you choose, it is imperative that you divide responsibilities, assign individual jobs, and rehearse your presentation in the weeks leading up to the trip. Your teacher and I would like to schedule a preliminary rehearsal for the week of April 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. This will not only provide you with formal practice, but your teacher and I will be able to make suggestions and provide constructive feedback in preparation for the actual trip on **April 21<sup>st</sup>**.

In addition to a suggested timeline for your work, I have listed the project requirements as well as suggestions and ideas below. I’m very excited to have you participate in this unique endeavor, and I look forward to seeing your preliminary presentations. In you have questions or concerns in the meantime, please feel free to contact me via phone (540-908-7492) or email ([bdickenson@rockingham.k12.va.us](mailto:bdickenson@rockingham.k12.va.us)).

With regards,

Beau Dickenson  
*Social Studies Coordinator*  
*Rockingham County Public Schools*

## PROJECT TIMELINE



### PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:

Each presentation must have: (a) one visual, (b) one relevant quote, and (c) each group member must speak at least once. Suggested presentation length is 10-15 minutes (*20 minute max.*). These requirements are intentionally vague in order to provide you with greater creative freedom!

### SUGGESTIONS:

- Utilize the resources on the companion website: <http://farmvilletourguides.rockingham.k12.va.us/>
- Find ways to involve / engage your audience in your presentation.
- Be creative! Some groups have assumed the roles of historic figures by dressing in character and telling their stories in first-person.
- Costco photo lab will enlarge digital pictures/jpegs and print them at a reasonable cost (just take them in on a thumb drive or CD). Staples, Michaels, and Hobby Lobby also have large, foam-reinforced poster boards. Given that your visual will augment your oral presentation, there should be very little text because your audience will not have time to read it. With the exception of titles, names, and/or quotes, your visual should primarily be comprised of images, photographs, and/or artwork.
- Be creative in your use of visuals! For example, one group created protest signs that were specifically designed to replicate actual signs found in historic photographs; another group created a pamphlet in the format of a church bulletin because their presentation occurred inside the walls of Farmville's First Baptist Church; and group with an artistically-talented student created a piece of artwork that was inspired by the events of their presentation.
- If possible, conduct interviews with individuals associated with your topic. For example, last year's group that researched Barbara Johns was able to conduct a phone interview with her sister, Joan! (*I can provide contact information, but make sure that you're prepared with good questions in advance of contacting them.*)