

NOTE TO FAMILIES

Date: _____

Dear Families:

Your student is about to embark on a Family Memory Project, during which he or she will write a personal narrative based on an older relative's life experiences.

Your student will create a series of questions and then use those questions to interview an older relative. Once the interview is complete, the student will create a personal narrative essay to help tell the relative's story. Your student will also think about how he or she would answer these questions and write a paragraph about themselves.

In class, students will read other personal narrative selections, develop questions for the interview, review each other's work, and share what they have learned.

I am asking you to help your student select a family member for this project and provide assistance in arranging the meeting. This meeting can take place in person or over the phone. While it is not your responsibility to conduct the interview, you may assist by recording the interview with a video camera or tape recorder.

When students pay attention to and craft both their own memories and those of other people, it can help them become more thoughtful readers and writers in other contexts. With this activity, students will also gain a better appreciation of how daily life has, and has not, changed over the years.

Sincerely,