

Harper-Archer Middle School

After School All-Stars Program



Dear Dr. Walt Thompson, Ms. Lyndsey Greene, and Mr. Maurice Shaffer:

On behalf of the group of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students from Harper-Archer Middle School who had the opportunity to tour Alabama State University, Rosa Parks Museum, Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church, The Civil Rights Freedom Wall, The National Voting Rights Museum, Slavery and Civil Rights Museum, Dexter Baptist Church, and Edmund Pettus Bridge, we want to say "THANK YOU" for helping Dr. Daniels-Koffi to make it happen for us. We are extremely thankful to Dr. Daniels-Koffi for organizing the trip to Montgomery and Selma, Alabama. All of the places we visited enabled us to experience what we had never seen before. For the 2 years in which I have been in the program, Dr. Daniels-Koffi did what she always do, think of the children and provide the "BEST".

OUR TRIP ITINERARY

On Wednesday, April 29, 2015, we left Harper-Archer's parking lot around 8:15 a.m. to go to MacDonaldd for breakfast. Upon leaving there, we traveled to Alabama State University (ASU).

Alabama State University

Just to give you a little history of what we learned about ASU is that it is a historical Black institution. This university was founded in 1869. It was first known as the "Teacher's College". In 1878, the second president, Mr. William Patterson is honored as a founder of ASU. If any of us is interested in attending this university, we can choose from many majors such as: Business Administration, Education, Health Science, Visual and Performing Arts, and Aerospace Studies. The school offers sports such as: football, baseball, basketball, golf, tennis, track, cheerleading, and soccer, just to name a few. My new principal graduated from ASU, so he was able to point out many things to us. For example, many of the buildings that are there now, were not there when he was a college student. Our tour guide, a performing arts major has played in several documentaries and just returned from Korea. We also had the opportunity to meet the first African American female President, Dr. Gwendolyn Boyd.

We ate lunch in ASU's cafeteria.

Rosa Parks Museum

We had the opportunity to experience sitting on a time machine bus and viewed a video from the scenes of what Rosa Parks went through when she refused to relinquish her seat on a city bus to whites. I personally thank you for this experience and for the information that I learned. At the end, we played a BINGO games in which the first group to complete the games was the winner. We were all winners!

Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church

I am pleased to let you know that Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. served as the pastor from 1954 to 1960. The Montgomery bus boycott was organized here on December 2, 1955. We took pictures.

National Voting Rights Museum

This museum highlighted the involvement of the local community and Alabama State University students who participated in the bus boycott and the Civil Rights Movement. At the museum, we saw the many pictures of what took place on Bloody Sunday. We were able to take pictures and ask question. There were different rooms in the museums. We saw white and colored water fountains. One room displayed President Obama.

Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church

We couldn't go inside, but we took pictures

Slavery and Civil War Museum

Most interesting! We had the opportunity to act out how slaves were treated. The displays were awesome.

Edmund Pettus Bridge

Everyone should have the opportunity to walk across this bridge, Bloody Sunday. I felt the pain that these people went through. They could have fallen in the water. I thought that the bridge was much longer. This was our last tour and then we headed back to ATL.

Harper-Archer Middle School

We arrived at the school around 9:30 p.m.

In summary, this was an educational trip that everyone should have the opportunity to tour. With the knowledge that I now have, I can tell the story. As a matter of fact, Dr. Daniels-Koffi asked trivial questions and gave out door prizes from the various sites. I had the task of telling the story from the beginning to the end to the group. Again special thank you to Dr. Daniels-Koffi for her dedication, encouragement, planning, and love she has shown the children at Harper-Archer Middle School. We will certainly miss her when she retires at the end of the school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Terrah Sullivan".

Terrah Sullivan