

Sweet Home Chicago Blues Project 2015

Throughout February (Black History Month), we will engage in a study of African-American music which we call *The Blues Project*. This year, our theme will be "Sweet Home Chicago." In Valparaiso we live in the shadow of Chicago; and whether we like it or not, the Windy City affects our time, our business, our news, our culture, and various other aspects of our life. Chicago is often referred to as the "Home of the Blues," and it holds a revered place in music history. However, the story of the blues doesn't start in Chicago; it starts in the Deep South with the experiences and songs of American slaves. This year's Blues Project tells the story of how the blues made the journey from the Mississippi Delta to Chicago, how the music changed when it got there, and how it helps us understand the plight of African Americans in the "Second City."

To earn forty (40) points, your task is to write a one-page report on the following topics relating to the blues. These reports should be typed, double-spaced, using 1 inch margins, and 12 point, Times New Roman font. A bibliography in MLA format must be included (remember to refer to your assignment notebook, pages 27 and 28, or the Purdue OWL website on how to format your sources). Each student will be assigned a different topic and due date. On the day your report is due, you will read it aloud at the beginning of class. For an additional 20 points of extra credit (maximum), you may also bring in an original full-color piece of artwork (drawing/painting/sculpture) relating to your report as a visual aid. You will be penalized ten (10) points for each day your report is late.

Mr. Cvelbar and I will choose the best of these reports to be read at the Blues Project concert on March 14th, in front of hundreds of people in the high school auditorium. If your report is chosen to be read or displayed at the concert finale, you will receive 20 bonus points. With that in mind, please keep your report to approximately one page in length and include any interesting facts that you feel an audience would enjoy learning. Please use your own words, and if you want to quote an outside source, you must cite the source appropriately in your report.