Fellow Educators:

On January 16, 2009, we are encouraging all schools in Allen and nearby counties to read an excerpt from the Declaration of Independence as part of the “United We Read” initiative.

The Declaration of Independence is more than just a ‘history document’. This controversial document changed history with colonists living in the British colonies in North America during the early-mid 1700s. Tired and frustrated, leaders from these colonies penned a document ‘declaring their independence’ from the British government.

As you hear or read this excerpt, remember how different your world might be had this document not been written.

These ‘starters’ can be used to stimulate discussion in your class prior to the reading from the Declaration of Independence.

- Tell students all text messages and/or e-mail messages had to be approved by an adult or teacher. Anyone sending a text or e-mail without proper authority would be disciplined.

- Tell students that all homework would have to be completed on paper sold to them from their teacher. The teacher would decide on how much to charge for each sheet of paper. No ‘outside’ paper or excuses would be accepted.

- Tell students that music listened to on an I pod or MP3 player had to be approved by their music teacher or parent. Only approved music would be sold for use on these devices.

We hope you embrace this opportunity to raise student awareness of one of the most significant documents in America and to the world.

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