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Humanities

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HOHAM Heroes Reflection

Superheroes and villains represent our idealized qualities, positive or negative. In the HOHAM Heroes project we studied and examined the meaning of Habits of Heart and Mind (HOHAM). We determined what kind of habits a respectable student should have. To assist students in understanding how HOHAM relates to themselves; we created superheroes or villains that represented a certain HOHAM (integrity, cooperation, connection). To complete this activity, we used wooden cut outs, then sketched, cut, painted, and hung them in the 9th grade wing of our school for all to see.

I absolutely loved how we got to show our personalities through this project. Though it was a little difficult at first because my partner and I were assigned a villain, I think it turned out well because we got to let our inner teenage turmoils out while creating the personality of our villain. The project promoted independent thinking which I appreciated. The assignments I had at High Tech Middle (HTM) were much different in that respect because they were more teacher directed. One of my favorite parts of this project was when we got to use a jigsaw to cut out our superheroes and villains. Something about using power tools made me feel in control and I had a strange sense of feminist pride. I'm definitely ready and excited for whatever projects my teachers throw at us this year.

My strong point is working in groups. Cooperation is definitely my favorite HOHAM, because then I get the chance to share ideas with my team mates and have thorough and thoughtful discussions about the project we are doing. That is not easily attainable when the person you are working with doesn't want to cooperate. It is difficult to create beautiful work by myself in a project meant for partners. My partner preferred to stay in the background and let me do

all the work. When I first realized that I was doing far too much of the workload, I thought it was because I took it upon myself. The next week was dedicated to trying to get my partner involved and comfortable working with me. With no progress whatsoever, I finally discovered what the stalemate was. She was not as dedicated as I was. Whatever the bare minimum, that's what she was going to go for. Having been in her class for three years I know that she produces undeniably beautiful work, when she works independently. When she's in a group though, if there is someone who can lift her weight too, then that's what will happen.

I honestly don't think my partner was doing this on purpose. If the opportunity ever arises, the easier option will be to work with a reliable partner. It's just nice for this act to be reciprocated, without the entire project crumbling or falling apart. This was the most evident challenge in the project. I genuinely wish I had been a better advocate of my thoughts and feelings, it may have helped her to understand my point of view. I don't know why I didn't, but I desperately wish I had; so that the next time she works in a partnership, that partner won't have to go through what I experienced.

Our villain, Miss Chaos, would have probably been a poorly drawn stick figure if not for all the wonderful and helpful critique we got. Every piece of feedback, from how to properly draw a thigh, to unfrizzing her hair, contributed greatly to outcome of our final product. I would never have guessed that we could have created such a beautiful piece of work. I try to take everyone's ideas and thoughts into consideration and typically end up following most of them to create something new and better.

I believe I know how to carry myself throughout school and life with ease now that I can utilize The Habits of Heart and Mind. This project opened my eyes to a whole new idea of what the definition of habits means. While the habit of Cooperation didn't seem to go as smoothly as I would have hope, I was able to try out many other habits, such as perspective, connection, and intellectual curiosity. I started off this school year developing good habits and I hope to continue these habits for the rest of my life.

