



April 30, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to share my enthusiastic recommendation of The Blue Card and their HoloConnects program. As a middle school principal, I am always looking for instructional experiences that bring history to life and allow my students to make connections between their lives and the past. The HoloConnects program does this and so much more.

I am including an excerpt of a reflection I wrote to my school community after the sessions. I feel like it captures the power of the experience.

This week we had the privilege of partnering with an organization called The Blue Card for students to learn about the Holocaust through the story of survivor Sonia Warshawski.

After participating in the workshop both days and hearing Sonia's story of loss and survival I feel like I know Sonia personally – I think all of us that participated do. The session starts with viewing a documentary made by granddaughter who is a filmmaker. The documentary cuts back and forth between Sonia's memories of the past in interview form and her present life as a speaker and tailor. It follows her time in Europe as a teenager from capture in her home in Poland, to time in three different concentration camps to being nearly fatally shot on Liberation Day.

Following watching the film, we then "met" Sonia through hologram form and had the opportunity to ask her questions. When asked who had a question nearly every hand was raised almost immediately. The questions spanned such a range. Questions about Sonia's favorite foods, how she became a tailor, how she was able to survive in the camps, what it was like to lose her mother, how she was reunited with her sister and if she believed in forgiveness. With each question asked a story followed in her answer. The most poignant moment for me was when Sonia talked about her life before the war. She was 13 when she was captured, 13 like so many of the children sitting in the classroom. Watching our students make this connection, think about what it must have been like to experience all of this at their age was powerful.

The attentiveness at which my students listened, the questions they asked, the reflections they shared reminded me of why experiences like this are so crucial for our children to have and I am grateful that I was able to be part of it.

Prior to having the program in my school, I was also able to premeet educators at The Blue Card to work through all of the logistics and talk about the program. This additional time really helped to ensure that the program was successful and tailored to the needs of my students and school. I found that The Blue Card was highly responsive to the specific needs of my school and appreciated the collaboration leading up to the sessions. I look forward to my continued partnership with this incredible organization.

Please feel free to reach out to me (madams@schools.nyc.gov) if you'd like to speak further or have questions about my experiences with the program.

In Kindness,

Meg

Dr. Megan Adams, Principal