

# **Scotch Plains Fanwood High School**

## **The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools**

Evergreen Avenue and Cedar Street, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076

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July 11, 2017

It was the pleasure of the Accelerated Freshmen classes of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School to host Mr. Serian for a 90-minute presentation on the Armenian Genocide in May of 2017. This is normally something I cover in my classes over the course of two days, so I was excited to see what the students were able to get out of a more formal presentation from a more personal perspective.

Mr. Serian was very well prepared and had a wide variety of material. By beginning with information and photos and music to show "Who are the Armenians", I feel that many students were able to form connections through their own heritages and see common traditions and backgrounds, enabling them to more fully attach to and be impacted by the heavier information that would follow. Mr. Serian handled the more serious topics of the planning, carrying through of, and denial of the genocide with both professionalism and clarity; he was sensitive with the material but also did not try to sugarcoat it.

Though my students did not ask many questions either during or after the presentation (that was just these classes as a whole this year and not a consequence of Mr. Serian), I could see that they were attentive and engaged throughout his presentation. The class I saw later in the day had several questions based on the information they had gotten out of the assembly, and several of the students apparently told some of their later teachers that the presentation had been interesting. Whether this is a topic other schools cover in their regular scope of curriculum or not, I would urge others to consider hosting Mr. Serian in order to allow students to learn about and access information that they might otherwise not be exposed to.

I would be happy to answer any additional questions about the nature and scope of the presentation if needed: [esassaman@spfk12.org](mailto:esassaman@spfk12.org)

Thank you again, Mr. Serian!

Sincerely,

Erin Sassaman

Teacher of Social Studies

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School



