



# Task Force on Diversity

**BISHOP KENNY HIGH SCHOOL**  
**October 2021 Update**

## INTRODUCTION

The Bishop Kenny High School Task Force on Diversity was formed in July of 2020 as current events and national dialogue led to new and deep discussions about racial equality and questions about how BKHS can and should better accompany minority and multicultural students. In pursuit of that goal and with the guidance of our Catholic faith, this task force of diverse voices is helping guide the school through this process and ensuring that the concerns of all of our stakeholders are heard. Following is a recap of their work to date.

## TIMELINE

### June 2020

- School administration engaged in one-on-one meetings, phone calls, and digital communications with concerned members of the school community
- An internal steering committee was established to plan and establish a task force and identify task force members

### July 2020

- First meeting of the BKHS Task Force on Diversity
  - 19 members
  - Clergy, parents, faculty, administration, students, alumni, coaches
  - Began drafting diversity survey of school stakeholders

### August 2020

- BKHS Task Force on Diversity introduced to faculty and staff during pre-planning; update provided on summer discussions and actions, as well as the focus for the year
- Task Force page on school website established, [www.bishopkenny.org/about/diversity](http://www.bishopkenny.org/about/diversity)
- Stakeholders invited to learn about Task Force via social media posts
- Diversity Student Union established
- Boys hair style policy changed to allow dreadlocks
- Stakeholder survey finalized and sent to all students, staff, current parents, and select alumni who requested to provide input
- Rose Carrion, Patient Experience Manager for Nemours, addressed Faculty: "Empathy to Compassion", building upon previous empathy training

### September 2020

- Independent contractor presented data analysis for survey results to Task Force chairs
- Data analysis presentation to the Task Force
- Strategic action planning began based on survey data
- Diversity Student Union planned events for year
- Dr. Maurice Rouhac, '79 accepted invitation as commencement speaker

### October 2020

- Continued analysis of survey data

### November 2020

- The Shield, BKHS student newspaper, published articles on diversity from student perspectives
- DSU and SGA attended first service event at White Harvest Farms

### December 2020

- Task Force forms three subcommittees:
- Speaker Committee (Chair: Tasha Garrison) - will look at obtaining speakers for both faculty and students
- Curriculum Committee (Chair: Alex Maples) - will look at how racism is taught across our curriculum and ways to incorporate it in areas that need support
- The Diocese Committee (Chair: Todd Orlando) - will meet with the diocese and discuss/discover as a resource for information, direction and guidance as the school moves forward.

## **January 2021**

- Task Force subcommittees begin to meet
- Task Force discusses providing the community with an update of the work thus far

## **February 2021**

- Subcommittee work presentation and discussions
- During the week of 2/22, the Diversity Student Union will host activities each day to represent diverse ethnic cultures for Diversity Celebration Week
- PA announcements each day celebrating Black History Month
- Google form sent to faculty asking them to provide input on if/how the topic of racism is addressed in their current curriculum
- Task Force plans to use this data to review curriculum standards and how they address diversity, inclusion and racism
- Speaker series initiative in planning for the 2021/22 school year
- 1-2 videos per month during flex mod
- Topics include: diversity among colleagues, Black American history, and race relations
- Committee researching videos that can be featured

## **June 2021**

- Task Force in-person meeting
- 2020-21 school year reviewed and summarized with input from survey, subcommittees, and Diversity Student Union
- 2021-22 school year initiatives discussed

## **September 2021**

- Task Force virtual meeting
- Introduced 3 new task force members, Frankie Alvarez, Sierra Bateh, Janelle Sumbeling
- 7 task force members rolled off, Amanda Centerrino, Jenny Lehman, Father Leonard Chua, Father Martin Raj, Ivonne Shad, Jasmyne Roberts, Sarah Ward
- Updated information about the Diversity Student Union, reviewed their activities which include monthly student meetings honoring different cultures each month of the school year
- Reviewed One Jax Diversity Education, Spring 2022

## **October 2021**

- Task Force virtual meeting
- Presentation from One Jax Diversity Education about their program and participation options for BK
- Date set for One Jax Diversity Education at BK, March 26, 2022, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.