

## **AUSD to Offer Introduction to Ethnic Studies This Fall**

Beginning this fall, students at Alameda High School and ASTI will be able to take an Introduction to Ethnic Studies class designed to help them learn to think critically about issues of ethnicity, identity, service, and social justice through a lens of history and sociology.

The class will be required of all 9<sup>th</sup> graders and will consist of three units:

- **Culture & Identity**

Students will explore their own ethnic identity and cultural history, learn about cultural appropriation, and consider the difference between cultural relativism and universal human rights.

- **Race**

Students will learn about concepts including white privilege, cultural hegemony, ethnocentrism, equity, racism, and dominant culture.

- **Migration**

Students will learn about factors causing migration (including war, ideology, and competition for natural resources), historical and contemporary immigrant experiences, and acculturation and assimilation.

- **Social Justice Action**

Students will learn about the concept of being an ally, identify inequities in their own lives, explore multiculturalism, and reflect on the ways their understanding of race has evolved since taking the class.

"I am thrilled that this course will be available for our high school students, who are so keenly focused on matters of race, identity, and social justice at this time," says Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi. "We can't create a more aware, inclusive, and just society unless we understand ourselves, our culture, and our history. This is an excellent first step towards helping students develop that foundational awareness."

The class is designed to be one semester long. Due to the pandemic, high school students will be taking only three courses per semester in 2020-21. As such, Introduction to Ethnic Studies will run for a half semester this year.

