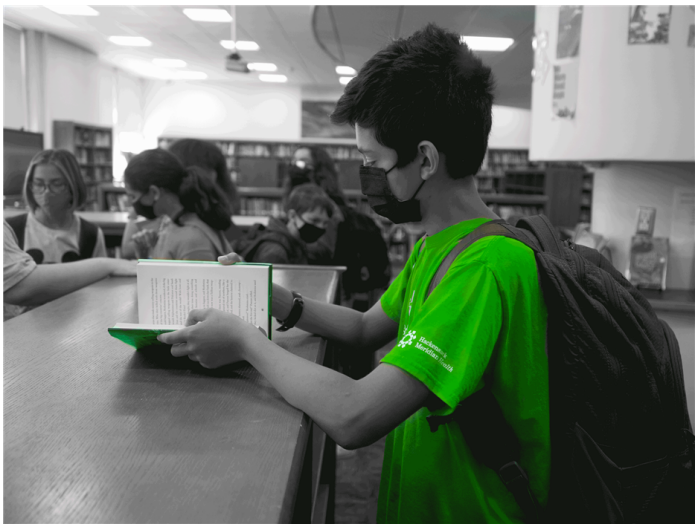
NOVEMBER 2021

HASTINGS HIGHLIGHTS

The monthly newsletter of highlights in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment



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OUR TALL 7 SPOTLIGHT: #3

CARING SHOULD BE OUR SIGNATURE.
DR. MCKERSIE

CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE PEDAGOGIES

In her full time role as the district Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator, and in close partnership with Melissa Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Jenice Mateo-Toledo has been hard at work bringing to life the year 1 goals that have been collaboratively designed for the district. These goals take into account the State guidance and the voices of Hastings educators. Below is an overview of some of her recent accomplishments:

- Hillside: Jenice has met with each Hillside grade level team to introduce the CR-SE framework. Over the next six weeks, she is scheduled to meet with each team for ½ a day. They will delve deeper into the framework and review opportunities to include the four principles of the framework into lessons and classroom spaces.
- FMS/5th Grade Team: Jenice has been partnering with the 5th grade team to design racial literacy lessons as we expand on our Sparks/Courageous Conversations program. The lessons are being co-taught with Jenice to provide educators with support as they engage in discussions about race and racism with the children.
- FMS/HHS: Jenice has met with all of the English and SS department members to introduce the CR-SE framework.
- Individual Teachers: Jenice has designed lessons and co-taught with individual teachers who have sought out support to include CR-SE principles into their curriculum.
- Diversity Committee: The goal of the committee this year is to enhance understanding of the CR-SE framework and begin designing a digital toolkit of resources to support our school community (stakeholders) as we implement the CR-SE framework. Jenice is actively designing and facilitating the work of the group.
- Racial Equity Days (RED): Jenice is partnering in RED planning for each building. Each committee is focused on designing a day that is age/grade appropriate and provides opportunities for students to discuss racial equity and recognize how race intersects with various issues in our world today. (ex. HS Focus: Environmental Justice and Race)
- Affinity Group: The affinity group meets weekly. They have been working together on elevating historically marginalized voices within our school community and providing opportunities for joy. (Ex. announcements about Indigenous People (Native American Heritage month) and movie night (Hispanic Heritage month).
- PTSA/Inclusion Working Group (IWG): Jenice meets regularly with community stakeholders who are interested in supporting the school community as we implement the CR-SE framework.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATHEMATICS

Our middle school mathematics team recently convened for a professional learning session around *Big Ideas*, the new mathematics resource that was adopted in grades 6-8 this year. In advance of the session, the department shared their learning interests as related to the new Big Ideas instructional resources. During the early portion of the session, they were joined by a consultant from Big Ideas, who provided training to build on implementation successes, addressed challenges teachers were facing, and introduced new elements to consider as related to implementation. Later in the session, the group revisited their shared agreements for implementation that they created together over the summer and worked to develop alignment regarding homework assignments and assessments. This decision-making process was grounded in student work and the New York State Next Generation Mathematics Learning Standards. A portion of the session was also dedicated to collaborative planning. The next learning session will occur in late December.

TECHNOLOGY PLAN

We continue to work closely with the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center to develop our State required Technology Plan. Our plan development process and timeline were presented to the Board of Education on November 8th.