September 2024

# NORTH PLAINFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

***Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Newsletter***




Welcome to the vibrant and culturally rich season of Hispanic Heritage Month! From September 15 to October 15, this month-long celebration honors, recognizes, and celebrates the profound contributions and positive influences of Hispanic and Latino communities in the United States.

Reading books, articles, poetry, and plays that explore the rich culture of the Hispanic and Latino communities are great ways to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and to learn throughout the school year. There are many prolific Hispanic and Latino authors and illustrators. When our students see themselves in the curriculum, they feel valued and empowered. Students who do not have a related heritage also benefit by gaining a fresh perspective on different cultures and learning about the positive contributions leading to better understanding and appreciation of the diverse world around them. Let's celebrate each other and create spaces of belonging for all of our students.

## Bienvenido al Mes de la Hispanidad




Hay tanta historia de Estados Unidos excluida de los libros y los programas escolares. "Entonces, cómo llenar los vacíos?"...

There is so much American history left out of school textbooks and curricula. "So how do we fill the gaps?"

Hispanic and Latino communities have left an indelible mark on the fields of art, music, literature, science, politics, history, mathematics, medicine, education, and countless other domains. Whatever you teach, take time to find what is missing.

## Easy Classroom Resources

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage. Scholastic's Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Online Activity provides your students with an opportunity to discover the contributions and rich cultures of Hispanics in the United States. Hispanic Heritage Month — celebrated September 15 to October 15 each year — honors the diverse peoples of Spanish-speaking backgrounds who have come to the United States from more than 20 countries

What's in a Name? Structured as game questions, this activity challenges students to identify cities, states and geographical features whose names tell the story of the Indigenous, Spanish and Mexican settlement that pre-dated the U.S. The investigative questions can be used alone as a geography trivia game, as a matching activity, or in conjunction with analysis of historical maps. Draws on material from *Latino Americans*.

Poetry by Hispanic and Latino Poets: In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15—and the rich tradition of poetry from Latinx poets year-round—browse this selection of poems, essays, and multimedia features.

Even if you are not able to physically travel to the countries or a museum, websites like the Smithsonian Latino Virtual Museum are engaging and fun. Be sure to explore art, traditional dances, and the different ways the countries celebrate holidays.



# Schedule of Upcoming Events

## Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrations

**HS, MS Hispanic Heritage Month Spirit Weeks 9/16 - 9/27**

**SOM Hispanic Heritage Movie Night 9/26**

**West End HHM Community Celebration 10/10**

**East End HHM Community Celebration 10/17**

**MS and HS HHM Community Celebration 10/17**

**SBS HHM Event - 10/18**
***Look at our district calendar for updates***

## *Fall Festival: Saturday, September 28, 2024, from 11am - 4pm at the High School/Middle School*

The North Plainfield Fall Festival is a wonderful way to celebrate with the community and build relationships with students and their families

## Reading Shelf Spotlight




It's 2032, and in this near-future America, all citizens are chipped and everyone is tracked-from buses to grocery stores. Set in this dystopian landscape, Vali, a young girl, goes on the run with her young brother on a journey to find, safety, to find home, to find a sanctuary

# Why Do We Celebrate the Student Identities and Cultures in our Schools?

Recognizing and celebrating students' identities and cultures in the classroom is important because it allows teachers to create a more inclusive and supportive learning environment where students can feel valued, understood, accepted and empowered to participate fully and without fear. This leads to improved engagement, academic performance, and overall well-being. By acknowledging the diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives each student brings to the classroom, teachers essentially foster a sense of belonging and this allows teachers to tailor their teaching methods to better meet individual student needs leading to better student outcomes.




Through Maria's emotional journey, we get a firsthand look at the toll denying someone's identity can have, not only on them, but on those around them. *La Maleta* reminds us that when we embrace who we are and accept others for who they are, we become better, together.

**Video Length: 7 minutes**

