

NORTH PLAINFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Newsletter



As we honor Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage, we also reflect on the diverse cultures of our North Plainfield community and the importance of inclusive education. Our school district recognizes that a nuanced and layered curriculum is essential to reflect the diverse identities and experiences of all students.

To that end, we have audited our curriculum and we are taking intentional steps to ensure that our students are engaging with learning that fosters genuine understanding and connection.

For example, the audit of the high school history curriculum includes more content on:

- Westward expansion and how it affected Afro-Latino and Indigenous Mexican communities
- Analysis of the failure of and resistance to Reconstruction, highlighting Black political leadership and communities
- The role of Latino laborers in the success of agriculture, railroads, and mining in the U.S.

Some of the ways we continue to anchor our work in our commitment to ensuring a school culture that reflects community and belonging are:

- Curriculum updates across all content areas
- School and administrative team book studies
- High interest classroom libraries
- Cultural events throughout the year
- NJ School Climate Improvement Surveys
- Restorative Practices
- Sheltered Instruction Professional Learning

Our goal is to not only ensure our students are receiving standards-based, grade-level instruction, but to also strengthen skills critical for students' success beyond the classroom—whether they choose to be enrolled in college, employed in the workforce, or enlisted in service upon graduation.

Celebrations To Remember

Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month

Jewish American Heritage Month

Haitian American Heritage Month

Mental Health Awareness Month

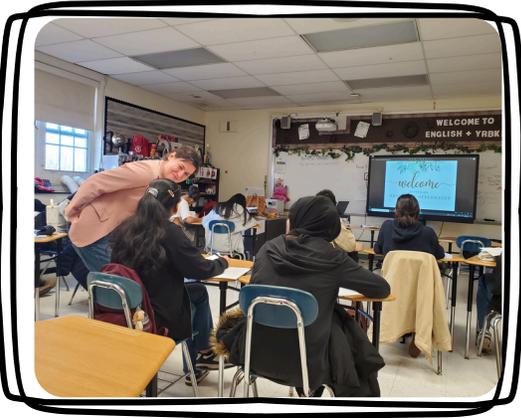
Memorial Day

Cinco de Mayo

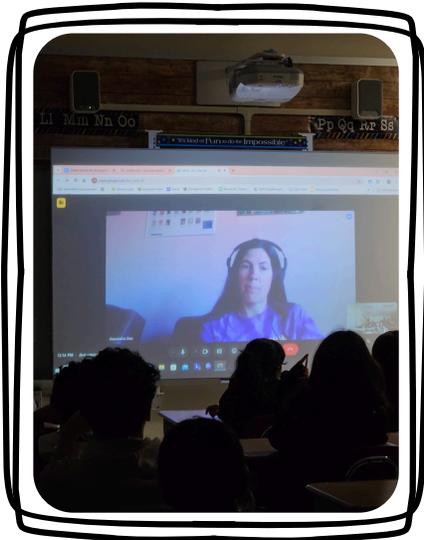


“...you must be ruthless in your mission to ensure equity, excellence and achievement for all students, regardless of background.” - Ken Williams, , Ruthless Equity

Providing a Diversity of Experiences for Our Students



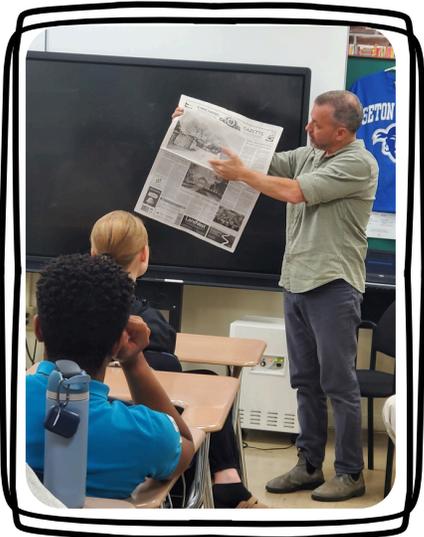
Our RVCC Partner, Prof. Offenbauer teaches a class at NPHS



Virtual Visit from Author, Alexandra Diaz



NPMS/NPHS Annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration



Author visit from NP Alum Bill Eville



Our Middle School Students at the Student Leadership Conference at Kean University



North Plainfield Youth Librarian Conducting Book talks at the Middle School



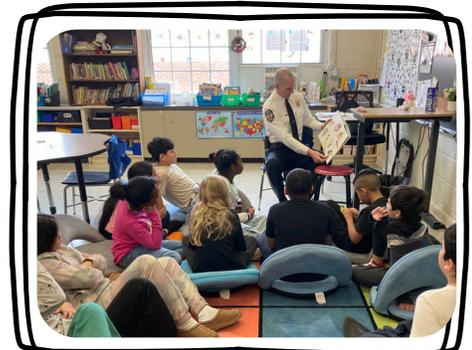
Celebrating Black History Month at Somerset School



The Shakespeare Theater of NJ Performing Romeo and Juliet at NPHS



Honoring Native American Heritage at Somerset School



Read Across America at East End Elementary



Our Canucks Dance Company performing at the high school



Did You Know?

Did you know that Asians were part of the first large-scale immigration to the United States during the mid 1840s.

Many Asian immigrants, particularly Chinese, sought their fortune in the new territory opening in the west during the California Gold Rush and the building of the Central Pacific Railroad. This influx was met with intense racism, leading to discriminatory policies like the Chinese Exclusion Act with national origin quotas and the Foreign Miners Tax.

Today, the AAPI community is a diverse and influential group, with significant contributions to various fields.



Reading Spotlight

By Gene Luen Yang, Age: 8+

This six-book set of graphic novels follows students at Stately Academy as they solve mysteries with logic, coding, and smarts.



By Varsha Bajaj Age: 10+

Karina's world is turned upside down when her post about an assault against her Indian-American grandfather goes viral. This is a story about finding one's voice in tough times.



By F.C. Lee Age: 12+

This is a fantastical tale that draws on Chinese mythology. It follows high achieving Genie Lo, whose quiet life in the Bay Area is interrupted by supernatural beings that she must battle.

IN A SMALL MEXICAN TOWN, JUNETEENTH IS A DAY OF SOLIDARITY

Did you know that Juneteenth is also celebrated in a part of Mexico?

Nacimiento Mexico was once home to thousands who escaped slavery in the US. As many as 10,000 slaves followed a clandestine Southern Underground Railroad to Mexico.

—To date, many Black Mexicans retrace a portion of the same route their African American ancestors followed in 1850 when they escaped slavery.

—Descendants of enslaved who escaped across the southern border observe Texas's emancipation holiday with their own unique traditions in the village of Nacimiento.

See a [short video](#) account of Juneteenth in Mexico!

Roots & Routes: Asian American Contributions in the Garden State

Are you curious about New Jersey's rich Asian American history? The team at Teach Asian American Stories is thrilled to present this curated map showcasing the stories of Asian Americans who have helped shaped New Jersey

Teachers; [Complete a short survey](#) and receive a beautiful movie poster size map of New Jersey highlighting Asian American contribution for your classroom. Be sure to check out the [free lesson plans](#) that accompany the map!



ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Al honrar la herencia asiático-americana de las islas del Pacífico, también reflexionamos sobre la diversidad cultural de nuestra comunidad de North Plainfield y la importancia de la educación inclusiva. Nuestro distrito escolar reconoce que un currículum con matices y niveles es esencial para reflejar la diversidad de identidades y experiencias de todos los estudiantes.

Para ello, hemos auditado nuestro currículum y estamos tomando medidas intencionales para garantizar que nuestros estudiantes participen en un aprendizaje que fomente la comprensión y la conexión genuinas.

Por ejemplo, la auditoría del currículum de historia de la escuela preparatoria incluye más contenido sobre:

- La expansión hacia el oeste y cómo afectó a las comunidades afrolatinas e indígenas mexicanas
- El análisis del fracaso y la resistencia a la Reconstrucción, destacando el liderazgo político y las comunidades negras
- El contribuciones de los trabajadores latinos en el éxito de la agricultura, los ferrocarriles y la minería en EE. UU.

Algunas de las maneras en que continuamos consolidando nuestro compromiso de garantizar una cultura escolar que refleje comunidad y pertenencia son:

- Actualizaciones curriculares en todas las áreas de contenido
- Estudios de libros por parte de la escuela y el equipo administrativo
- Bibliotecas de aula de alto interés
- Eventos culturales durante todo el año
- Encuestas de Mejora del Clima Escolar de NJ
- Prácticas Restaurativas
- Aprendizaje Profesional de Instrucción Protegida

Nuestro objetivo no solo es garantizar que nuestros estudiantes reciban instrucción basada en estándares y acorde a su grado, sino también fortalecer habilidades cruciales para su éxito más allá del aula, ya sea que elijan matricularse en la universidad, incorporarse al mercado laboral o alistarse en el servicio militar al graduarse.

Celebraciones para recordar

**Mes de la Herencia Asiático-Americana e
Isla del Pacífico (AAPI)**

Mes de la Herencia Judía-Americana

Mes de la Herencia Haitiana-Americana

**Mes de la Concientización sobre la Salud
Mental**

Día de los Caídos

Cinco de Mayo

¿Sabías

¿Sabías que los asiáticos formaron parte de la primera inmigración a gran escala a Estados Unidos a mediados de la década de 1840?

Muchos inmigrantes asiáticos, en particular los chinos, buscaron fortuna en los nuevos territorios que se abrieron en el oeste durante la Fiebre del Oro de California y la construcción del Ferrocarril Central del Pacífico. Esta afluencia se enfrentó a un racismo intenso, lo que condujo a políticas discriminatorias como la Ley de Exclusión China, con cuotas por origen nacional, y el Impuesto a los Mineros Extranjeros.

Hoy en día, la comunidad AAPI es un grupo diverso e influyente, con importantes contribuciones en diversos campos.

