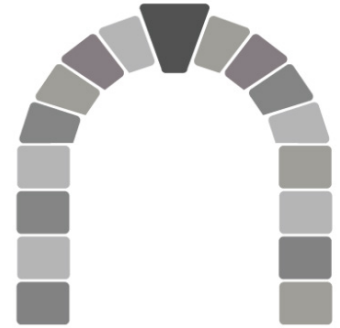




Course Description

Students are agents of change. We learn as a result of action. Students in this course will use critical thinking, inquiry, analysis, and communication to engage in deep conversations about race, culture, and identity in society. They will develop ideas and create solutions, evaluating the effectiveness of these solutions to affect change.

Action and inquiry are the heart of how we learn as we solve problems on a personal and global level. Just as the "keystone" supports the entire archway, the leadership and design experiences that students have in this class will support their life as a whole.



Essential Learning

Who We Were

- I can examine the social construction of race and how definitions have changed over time
- I can find positive role models in history who were agents of change
- I can view historical events from multiple perspectives

Who We Are

- I can define my own racial and cultural identity
- I can implement the Courageous Conversations protocol during class discussion
- I can research and teach others about positive change-makers

Who We Want to Be

[Community Project]

- I can inquire about problems I see in the world
- I can analyze current societal systems and develop new solutions
- I can take action and evaluate the effectiveness of my ideas

Teaching Philosophy

The core of this program is interracial collaboration and community engagement. It aligns with our school district's mission, vision, and core values. We create classroom learning experiences as a team of three teachers with different racial identities, and seek multiple perspectives from students. We plan to invite in guest speakers from the community and SLP High School students to serve as positive role models. Our goal is to build real-world global citizenship skills. Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera (<https://youtu.be/C3o9An7StGk>) to watch a video of former Keystone students speaking about their experiences. We encourage parent feedback and involvement, so please contact us with any questions.



“Keystone was the base of everything I refer back racism, or even current events, I always think about what we talked about in Keystone... [it] also really helped me to be able to know how to talk in small groups and how to bring community together. Keystone has definitely helped me embrace myself as a leader and I learned a lot from that class”

– Jaida Puentes, Class of 2023

St. Louis Park Public Schools Core Values

We believe in:

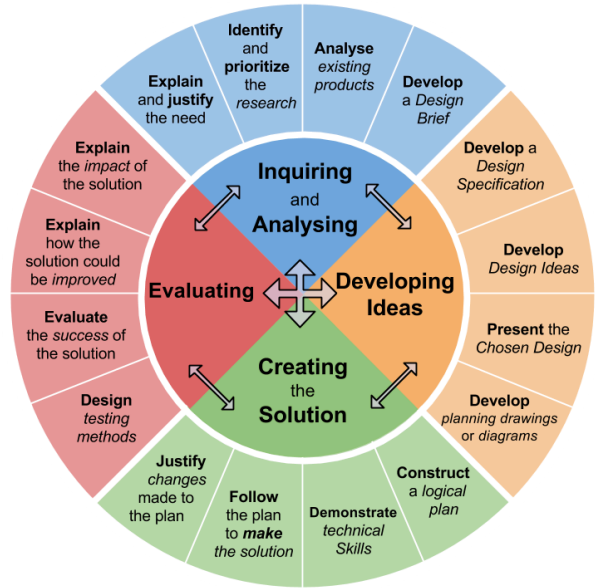
- > **The brilliance of ourselves and others.**
Everyone has the capacity and responsibility to foster the growth and brilliance of others.
- > **Authentic community engagement.**
Engaging and supporting our employees, families, and communities will enhance the healthy development of each learner.
- > **High expectations.**
Instilling and upholding high expectations empowers students and staff to higher levels of achievement.
- > **Collective responsibility.**
Embodying the collective and urgent responsibility of anti-racist practices enriches a work and learning environment and community.
- > **Persistent effort.**
Through persistent effort we will create anti-racist schools and academically successful learners.
- > **Racial consciousness and cultural competence.**
Racial consciousness and cultural competence are essential to each person's ability to be a catalyst for change.
- > **Advocacy for equity.**
Everyone has equal intrinsic worth and we will advocate for the historically marginalized.



Design Cycle and Community Project

Keystone Design 8 will allow students to extend the development of their racial literacy and community engagement built throughout their time at St. Louis Park Public Schools. The 8th Grade Community Project serves as students' capstone project for being part of the Middle Years Programme (MYP) of an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School. The Community Project has been an additional project for 8th graders, but it will now be part of the Keystone Design 8 course.

Using the IB Design Cycle, students will choose any topic they're interested in and identify a related problem. They will make a note of their existing knowledge on the topic and, either working alone or with others, they will use critical thinking to conduct research and examine multiple perspectives. They will develop their own ideas of how to solve the problem and take action towards that goal. Finally, they will reflect on their learning and action, and present to fellow students about their journey.



Meet the Teachers



Rob Hansen

Keystone Design 8 Teacher
hansen.robert@slpschools.org



Jackson Carter

Keystone Design 8 Teacher
carter.jackson@slpschools.org



Meghan Setten

Keystone Design 8 Teacher
setten.mehgan@slpschools.org

Grading Policy

We follow the SLPMS assessment policy:

Formative Assessments20%

Summative Assessments80%

Our formative assessments primarily focus on class participation and engagement. Students will build community with each other to create a safe learning environment through discussion and mindful listening. In-class writing assignments will often be used to assess student understanding and inform our instruction. Students will not be graded on what they believe, but rather their level of engagement in the learning, explanation of their ideas, and implementation of new concepts/vocabulary. Homework will rarely be assigned. Throughout the year, we will cover the three areas of our course: Who We Were, Who We Are, and Who We Want to Be. The Community Project will be a summative assessment during the spring.

International Mindedness

As an MYP IB World School, International Mindedness and Action are part of our way of being. The International Baccalaureate mission states that it "aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect." This course develops students' Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills in the areas of Thinking, Communication, Social, Research, and Self-management.

