

FROM THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

UPPER MERION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

June 2026



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Engagement Through Awareness

The month of June brings awareness to two communities that are represented in our schools. For students that identify as LGBTQIA+, celebrating Pride Month creates a sense of belonging and fosters an inclusive environment. While Juneteenth honors and celebrates students of the African diaspora and their ancestors. Some students in the school community are at the intersection of both communities. This unique intersectionality allows educators to engage students through social and identity awareness. More information about engaging students in learning that brings identity and social awareness of real world experiences into the classroom can be found in the [PA Common Ground Framework for Cultural Awareness-Competency 3 \(CA3.B\)](#).

About Pride Month

Pride Month is a great opportunity to talk with students about the LGBTQIA+ community and their struggles to achieve equity and justice. Secondary educators can teach the history of Pride Month including [The Stonewall Uprising](#). Elementary educators can read literature that features the LGBTQIA+ community and books written by LGBTQIA+ authors.

SEE: [ADL Pride Month Education Resources](#)

What Is Juneteenth?

Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was made effective in 1863, it could not be implemented in places still under Confederate control. As a result, in the Confederate state of Texas enslaved people would not be free until much later. Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865. Approximately 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "[JUNETEENTH](#)".

JUNE APPRECIATION



Pride Month

[What is Pride Month](#)

[Why Do We Celebrate Pride Month](#)

[Pride Month Presentation](#)



Juneteenth

[What is Juneteenth](#)

[What is Juneteenth and Why Is It Important](#)

([Link to video follow up questions](#))

[Celebrating Juneteenth Read Aloud](#)

[Juneteenth Presentation](#)

THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO HMM

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Today, a student in my most challenging class told me that he likes the way I teach and that he's been learning a lot. Was a good reminder that **we are probably accomplishing a lot more than it often feels like we are.**

—ZACK HARTZMAN, Educator

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When is the last time you thought about your impact on students?

WATCH : [Teacher Encouragement](#)

Congratulations on a successful school year! Happy Summer!

