

HASTINGS HIGHLIGHTS

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



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DR. MCKERSIE**

RACIAL EQUITY WEEK

Earlier this month, we hosted Racial Equity Week throughout the district. Each building designed a day that provided opportunities for students to consider, at developmentally appropriate age and grade levels, how racial equity affects our world. The days were designed with input from diverse stakeholders such as administrators, teachers, students, staff, and community members. Thank you to Dr. Jenice Mateo-Toledo for her leadership in the planning process and in bringing these programs to fruition.

Hastings High School

The theme at Hastings High School was “Environmental Justice: Think Locally - Act Locally.” Students engaged around environmental justice issues that are currently impacting Westchester County, especially lower income communities and low income members of wealthier communities. “The Sacrifice Zone,” a thirty minute film was shown, which was followed by guest speakers who answered questions and provided context to the film. Educators then led classroom discussions, activities, and action-oriented workshops.

Farragut Middle School

The theme at Farragut Middle School centered on understanding the ubiquity of media in our daily lives and its impact on race equity and social justice. Students participated in various learning activities throughout the day and listened to a panel discussion on representation and the media.

Hillside Elementary School

The theme at Hillside Elementary School was “Never Too Young for Justice.” City Love led an engaging, developmentally appropriate assembly to build community across our differences, talk about race, hope, equity, and belonging.

The speakers were funded through the HEF Speaker Series grant. The movie viewing was funded by the Race Matters Committee.

FEBRUARY 2022

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMITTEE

Our Hastings Professional Learning Committee has been working together to design the upcoming March 16 Superintendent's Conference Day. This will be a day of professional learning for all members of the faculty, including administrators, teachers, TAs, aides, monitors, clerical staff, and custodial staff. The team has focused the day on Culturally Responsive Pedagogies, which connects with one of the leadership goals that is applicable district-wide.

The committee has recommended Dr. Shawn Joseph as the keynote speaker. Dr. Joseph will kick off the day with a call to action around culturally responsive practice in a session titled *Persisting Through Difficult Times: The Leadership Lessons of Joseph*. This keynote address will be followed with a choice of workshop. One will be *The Social Neuroscience of Race and Ethnicity*, facilitated by Dr. Dan McCloskey. The other will be *"You Can't Be What You Can't See": How Media Shapes Our Understanding of Gender and What We Need to Envision a More Inclusive World*, facilitated by Dr. Sharon Maxwell & Chelsea Maxwell.

We are very grateful to HEF and the PTSA for their willingness to fund these learning opportunities for our faculty.

TECHNOLOGY PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Special thanks to our Hastings Technology Committee for the strong, collaborative efforts to design our 2022-2025 State-required Technology Plan. The goals associated with this plan center on advancing digital citizenship, culturally responsive practices, and alignment to the new Computer Science and Digital Fluency standards. The goals, action plan, and anticipated financial costs associated with this plan will be presented at the February 28th Board of Education meeting.