

Bethlehem Area School District
Suggested Anti-racist Curriculum Resources

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Introduction

The need for anti-racist teaching has always been present. However, world crises have a way of shedding light on already existing issues, which is why the conversation around racism grew. For over 200 years many people stayed complacent during the building of America. Since the pandemic stopped our fast pace lifestyle, activists were given a spotlight to bring attention to these inequalities. A major issue about the American lifestyle is that we live with the same expectations for prosperity and success our founding fathers dreamt of. This is not necessarily a bad thing, but American patriotism has taken a large amount of room in the ways we teach our students. I have created this resource document as a guide to create more critical, creative and ethical students. Most importantly, this document highlights antiracist education system, that work for students to acknowledge the flaws of the United States, while providing the right tools students can use to create a more equitable and equal future for all.

The majority of schools have a mission statement. This statement announces to parents and guardians that their kids will achieve resources to be the most successful. Mission statements and goals are a good thing, we need to look at the specific expectations our education system puts on students. The suggested materials and resources given in this document reflect the standards set by the Pennsylvania Education System. To be clear, this document is not able to cover every unjust system in the United States today. In this document I mainly focus on race, ethnicity and gender. However, there are a lot of unjust systems that need to be addressed as well.

Not everyone is racist, but many people, who may know it or not, are large contributors to the sustained racism in our nation. With our current political climate, the word antiracism has begun to be used more. Antiracism is the *active* participation in opposing racism. Currently most people are performative allies, meaning that people oppose racism, yet do not do their part to intervene when racism is present. Antiracism requires continuous education and the acknowledgement that there will be frequent. For White people this begins with becoming aware to their privilege. Once privilege is acknowledged, people must educate themselves on the systemic racism that is rooted in our country's systems. The next steps are to recognize racism and use privilege to change these unjust systems. People with privilege have been given a platform that allows their voices to be taken more seriously than the voices of minorities. The next steps are to take the lessons learned and to educate those who are unaware.

Through extensive research, I have put together a list of anti-racist resources in relation to the Pennsylvania's Standard Aligned System.

Pennsylvania Standard Aligned System

Developed by Pennsylvania's Department of Education, the [Standard Aligned System](#) "is a comprehensive, researched-based resource to improve student achievement". The website allows for people to search standards for each grade and subject, assessments, curriculum framework,

instructions and materials & resources¹. For this specific document I emphasize the importance of a holistic and interdisciplinary curriculum. I went over the standards for arts & humanities, social studies, ELA, and science & technology in order to contribute to a holistic curriculum.

What's the Goal?

Our current education system is built to have those with privilege succeed. This is why our school's curriculum must change. A curriculum should be reflective of all the diversity of the world, especially in the United States that teaches its students that the United States is the "melting pot" of the world. If the United States was truly a melting pot our curriculum would include the experiences of Indigenous people, the executions of civil right activists and how the words written in our constitution don't apply to everyone. Currently, we have system that divides us between gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, and political belief. This division is sustained by bias curriculums that leave out the failures of the nation. If education is the gateway to success than we are failing. Our goal is to give students the tools to analyze, criticize, and solve the experiences they will later face.

Bethlehem Area High School District

Earlier I talked about the importance of a mission statement. The mission statement for the BASD's Framework for Citizenship says:

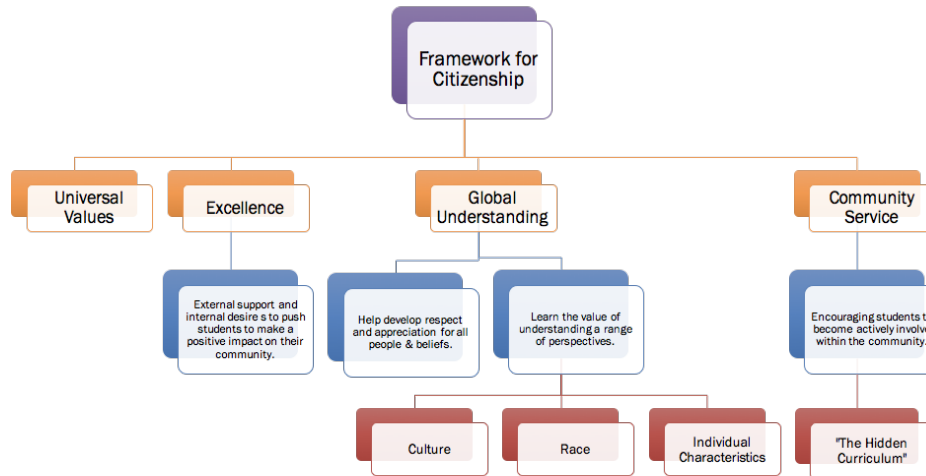
"The Bethlehem Area School District, in partnership with the home and community, is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment in which each student will attain the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to become a productive citizen and lifelong learner in our technologically demanding and culturally diverse society"

The most important part of this mission statement are the last two lines. Becoming a productive citizen and lifelong learner is ideal, yet complicated in the United States. First you must ask, what makes someone a citizen? Currently, we are living in a world where we claim unity through citizenship, yet if you don't conform to expected social norms, you are shunned from society. So, I bring up the question: does the materials, lessons and skills taught work for our current reality or the one we want to believe we have? The answer is no. Former students have called their

¹ These standards were taken from the official website for the Pennsylvania's Standards Aligned System.

schools back asking why they hadn't learned about the history they see in the news today. If our goal is to teach people how "to become a productive citizen and lifelong learner", we have failed.

The framework that leads to citizenship is laid out as the following:



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Universal Values

With every curriculum there is also a hidden curriculum. A hidden curriculum is when norms, values and beliefs are learned. This means that teachers don't only teach information, but also influence the way in which kids think. The values listed include important values such as courage and empathy to self-discipline and work ethic. As I looked through the list of values I noticed one that didn't seem to fit with the others – patriotism. Patriotism is defined by the “love for or devotion to one's country”. Patriotism is not a bad thing, but defining it as a universal value places the importance in U.S. pride. It's hard to become patriotic if students are looking back on their education and questioning how true the material was. It's hard to become patriotic when their skin tone, religion or ethnicity isn't seen as important as white students. By having patriotism as one of the foundations for the school district, you alter the teaching material to create patriots. BASD's mission refers to culturally diverse societies, which is larger than the perspective of a US citizen. It is never a school's job to teach patriotism, but to help students build the skills to critically think, analyze and understand the world around them. In my opinion, more students would be more patriotic if they learned the full truth of our flaws and are given the skills to do work that betters the community.

2 I created this diagram based off the K-12 Student Framework for Citizenship found on the BASD official website

Excellence

We all strive for excellence yet some students can achieve excellence more easily than others. Students from low income families may not have the resources that will allow their children to find their academic passions. How are the students supposed to stay after school for a computer science extracurricular when they need to take care of siblings or work after school to support the family? Students of color are disproportionately more likely to work jobs or care for families. It's hard for students to succeed when our institutions don't believe everyone deserves excellence.

Global Understanding

The goal is to create a universal understanding for other cultures, races, and individual characteristics. Looking through the curriculum, I wonder if this foundation is really being built. History is taught from the winner's perspective. Most of those winners are white. Books, movies and materials should include a diverse group of authors. All identities deserve a place in the materials. Young students are constantly asked "what do you want to be when you grow up?" Students are more likely to believe they can obtain these goals if they can see someone who looks like them in that position. To have global understandings we must value the learning of all perspectives.

Community Service

Community service is more complicated than it might seem. I know of many schools that require a certain amount of hours a student must complete. This is not an effective way to teach citizenship because it creates an idea that this are tasks that need to be done, instead of being seen as a way to be an active member within a community. I hear more people use the term community engagement now because community service creates an "us vs. them" relationship. Community engagement suggests that we are all one community and we engage in our community because we are a part of it. Creating projects and initiatives between the school, certain class years or extra curriculums and the community allows students to create better connections with their community members. Community engagement also helps students recognize power and privilege. Bethlehem is a great area for community engagement since the area has a diverse population.

The Vision

In my opinion, the standards for our education systems should be centered on learning the tools and skills that will make every student a successful *global* citizen. This would mean admitting to the flaws currently present in our systems and directly working to change the programs that haven't worked. Schools can shape entire generations of kids, yet our children will never fully succeed if we do not give them an unbiased education. Reforming the curriculum could allow

students to become more well-rounded and learn how to develop their own opinions and identify their own emotions about our country by teaching them how Americans can make a change.

It's always hard to tell if we are doing enough. It's important to remember that change takes time. The first step is to try. Everyone will make mistakes, but it is a part of the learning process. The next step is teaching allyship. We learn in our schools how to be performative allies, but a real ally means actively fighting against oppression. All too often we rely on BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) to educate White people, which is an unfair expectation. In addition, educators and staff members need to make a community guideline agreement which allows students to feel more comfortable discussing hard topics. By setting these community standards at a young age, students will grow up to communicate with others in a more mature way. Lastly, I recommend looking at curriculum, lesson plans, reading, movie and other activities through the following lenses:

- Cultural Acceptance
- Racial Justice
- Fun & Interactive Learning
- Community Engagement
- Implicit Bias Training
- Anti-racism

It is not our goal to force students to become social justice warriors, but to provide an education that allows students to understand the world from different perspectives, critically think and form their own opinions based on education rather than blindly following the opinions of others.

Classroom Resources

In this section I have paired off grade years based on similar expected learning outcomes. I have provided suggestions for literature, videos and activities that can be used in the classroom. These resources provide a diverse group of voices and perspectives. By exposing students to diverse classwork, we begin to normalize differences, which leads to not only global and critical thinkers, but generations of students that value the lives of everyone. I have not read or watched every resource listed, but I made sure to do research on all the materials before suggesting it.

Kindergarten & First Grade

Literature

***Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type* by Doreen Cronin**

Farm animals are upset with their work environment so they come together to type up a list of demands to give to the farmer. The book uses humor and animals to explain the importance of recognizing inequalities. This picture book demonstrates proper ways to resolve conflicts through conversation.

***Grandpa's Corner Store* by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan**

A girl's grandfather needs to sell his store because of a competitor. The girl gathers all her friends and neighbors and they plan a way to save her grandfather's store. The reason I suggest this book is because it emphasizes the importance of community building and the power of community engagement. The story also brings up the trouble small businesses are having now due to the rise of bigger companies.

***Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote: A Migrant's Tale*, by Duncan Tonatiuh**

A rabbit and a coyote team up to make it across the border to find family and work. This book discusses the issue of immigration in our country from an immigrant's point of view. The book also addresses why people cross the border without the right documentation. In kindergarten there is an emphasis on learning structures of society. The easiest way to teach this is through the explanation of family structure. This can then later address questions on societal structures outside of the family. This book allows kids to learn about a topic that is often "too mature" for them. Kids always learn about immigrants, but the immigrants that they learn about are white and are pursuing the American dream.

***Aani and the Tree Hugger* by Jeannine Atkins**

An Indigenous tribe works to protect their environment. Additionally, the hero is a woman which introduces women empowerment. There is a focus in kindergarten and first grade class on the climate and different type of habitats. This book engages students in the importance of protecting the environment while amplifying the voices of Indigenous people. The main character is a girl and I think it's important to use literature that has a variety of different voices, especially the voices of women.

***The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss**

This is a popular book to read to kids. Dr. Seuss allows students to experience curiosities with a musical tone with rhyming. These books are great for learning adjectives. *The Lorax* is about learning the importance of our living world. Students are able to advance their reading skills while also learning about the importance of the environment.

Videos

[The Lorax](#) (1hr 35mins)

Based on Dr. Seuss's book *The Lorax*.

[Pixie Hollow Games](#) (30mins)

This is a movie about the Pixie Hollow Fairies. This movie is about leadership and team building. It shows that just because you have different interests, you can still get along with each other and make a difference. Showing this movie at this age will help break away from gender stereotypes. We need to normalize showing kids movies based on the content and not the gender audience. Starting from a young age it is important to break away from the binary to set a safe environment for self-expression.

Projects & Activities

Classroom Jobs

After learning about the environment (could come with teaching the Lorax) you assign different students job roles in the classroom that makes sure students are saving energy and minimize waste. Some of the jobs can be turning on and off the lights, recycling, washing hands, and reusing paper. Multiple students can have one job and jobs can switch every week or month.

Problem Solving Activity

In this activity students will find similarities and differences between each other and have conversations about why, in their opinion, it's the best. For example, someone's favorite color might be blue while another student might enjoy purple. Students will then discuss why it's their favorite and debate about the better color. After the debate the kids with different preferences will work together in groups combining their interests into an activity (drawing, painting, building, etc.) This role play will practice solving disagreements through collaboration. The PA Standard Aligned System emphasizes the importance of learning about conflicts and solutions for the Civics and Government portion of social studies. Students will learn about their responsibilities of being a part of a community and how differences can lead to great things.

Second & Third Grade

Readings

***Before Columbus: The Americas of 1491* by Charles C. Mann**

This book addresses what American was like before Columbus. Kids are taught that Columbus discovered America, which is false. The book tells the story of America when the majority of the population was Ingenious people. In 2nd grade for history, there is an emphasis unit on studying timelines and sequences of events. This book can help create timelines for students to better interpret past, present and future.

***Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat* by Nikki Giovanni**

A picture book perfect for young readers comes with a CD so students can listen the poems written in the book. This book gets students into poetry, while keeping kids' attention with music. The book covers the history of hip hop and rap while introducing kids to famous poets. In art and humanities courses the goal is to show kids different types of music, with an emphasis on personally creating and performing. Students can write poems after listening to the book. It would also be fun if teachers added beats and allowed kids to keep beat with the poem (like writing their own song). This can also be done as a full class.

***Kid Blink Beats the World* by Don Brown**

This book is about the newsies who went on strike. They show that obstacles are not only faced as adults, but also as kids. This book can show the power younger generations have and how to make change. Additionally, it covers an important part of American history that is usually not taught. This book connects to PA's standards because students begin to learn about rights and responsibilities as citizens. There is also a theme of conflict and solution which is a good way to teach kids about problem solving and communication.

***Gordon Parks: How the Photographer Captured Black and White America* by Carole Boston Weatherford**

A Black boy is told he won't be able to get good jobs based on the color of his skin. He loves photography and uses his passion to capture America. His passion for photography led him to working as a government photographer, however when starting his job, he encountered what segregation was. Students are expected to learn about US history and how different factors within a society changes overtime. This book will teach students to learn about segregation and obstacles Black people face. This allows students to continue to learn about racism through the lens of a Black photographer. Educators should address how segregation lives on today. This will teach students that just because something happened in the past doesn't mean it's over.

Videos

[Kids Meet a Native American Politician \(5.5min\) & Breaking Native American Stereotypes \(3.5min\)](#)

Indigenous people are not talked about in the majority of classes. Classes will cover their lives during the years of Christopher Columbus, yet, we pretend as though they do not exist anymore. Since there is a strong emphasis on exploring other cultures at this age, I believe these videos present information in an engaging way. Learning history from the perspective of the people who experienced it is much more influential and helps teach the importance of perspectives

[I'm only a kid, I can't do anything about climate change...right? \(7mins\)](#)

This video explains climate change and how kids can help save the planet, even when they feel too small. This resource is aimed at the science curriculum, however social studies also focuses on how to be a good community member. By combining lessons about the climate with tools kids can use to help the planet, the video allows students to contribute in their neighborhoods.

[Princess and the Frog \(1hr 38mins\)](#)

This Disney animation takes on the classic tale of the princess and the frog. It's about a girl with a dream to open her own restaurant, but faces obstacles. It's a great movie because it goes over different cultures and has a diverse cast, which has been rare in Disney movies.

Projects & Activities

Poetry Activity

In connection with the poem book, Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat, students can create their own poems inspired by the ones they read. They can combine music and art skills by illustrating their poems and also creating music to go along with readings of their poems. The PA standard system emphasis vocabulary development, speaking and listening, and writing skills around these age groups.

Buying and Selling Activity

The class will be split in half and each group will decide a product they want to sell (ice cream, art work, poems, etc.). Students will then create their own products. Over the course of two days, one group will sell their product at different prices and the other group will be given a form of currency (fake money, beads, marbles, etc.). Students will then go around and "buy" different products that are being "sold". Students will be given all the same amount of money, but have to learn how to spend according to their wants. In social studies there is a focus on economics. Students in second and third grade are expected to learn about jobs, defining pricing and the

purpose of advertisements. This activity will allow students to work different jobs and “earn” money. It will also allow students to be create their own products.

Fourth & Fifth Grade

Literature

***Dayshaun's Gift* by Zetta Elliott**

Students get a better understanding of community engagement, volunteering, the environment and the Draft Riots. The PA Standard System wants to teach about rights and responsibilities as citizens and how to be an active community member. I believe this book is a good choice when talking about the sacrifices people need to make to help others.

***Hidden Figures Young Readers' Edition* by Margot Lee Shetterly**

This book covers the story of four African American Mathematicians as they help NASA win the race to space. This book is the young readers' edition so it's not too advanced. Under the standards for science in fourth and fifth grade, there is an emphasis on tools used to explore outer space and learning about our solar system. This book fits well with those topics while also being told from a black narrative. It is important to make sure all topics covered in school have a variety of different perspective so that every student can see someone like them in a position they could one day work. These women scientists face even more obstacles because women are not expected to be a part of the science field. During fourth and fifth grade students are uncovering more of their passions while also picking up on societal stereotypes, like gender and sexuality. The book shows students when they are younger that no matter your race or gender, you're still able to make differences in the world.

***New Kid* by Jerry Craft**

This book takes on the story of a young boy who starts school at a majority white private school. The book is a graphic novel that covers middle school anxieties and how to feel a part of a community, even when you don't look like those around you. A part of the fourth and fifth grade social studies' standards expects students to learn about human characteristics based on population, culture, settlement, and economic and political activities. The graphic novels bring current issues to life that many kids will probably be facing within their current schools. The book will allow students to compare and contrast characteristics of groups based on US history.

***The Ugly One* by Leanne Statland Ellis**

This book takes place during the Inca Empire and discusses the concept of beauty. A girl is bullied for the scar across her face, but with help from her macaw she learns to love herself. Books revolving around the idea of outsiders vs. insiders are very important to teach. In fourth and fifth grade students are beginning to form deeper relationships with others while the fear of bullying looms of parent's heads. It's important to teach at a young age how to treat and respect

others, especially if they are different from you. Not only does this book teach self-love, but it's placed in an environment rarely studied in schools.

***The Crystal Ribbon* by Celeste Lim**

This book is about a girl who is sold as a child bride in order to support her poor family. This is a common scenario that still happens today. There are currently 46 states that allow for child marriage. The book takes place in China, which allows students to learn different cultures outside of the United States. A part of the social studies curriculum, students are expected to learn how to compare and contrast social, political, cultural and economic groups throughout world history. This book does exactly that.

Videos

[Queen of Katwe](#) (2hr 4mins)

This movie is a film about a girl from Uganda who learns chess and plays to become the best in the world. This movie is about dreams, but will also give kids insight to other countries and their condition. The film breaks down stereotypes and how to follow your dreams when the world seems to not allow you to.

[Akeelah and the Bee](#) (2hrs)

A young girl goes on to win a national spelling bee. Like the movie above, this movie is about chasing dreams and overcoming obstacles. It's not only an educational video, but it depicts a black woman's struggle to succeed in a world where it tells her she doesn't belong. This film teaches resilience and perseverance.

[Hidden Figures](#) (2hrs)

The movie is about the four women who helped NASA during the Race to Space. This movie highlights black women in STEM, which is rarely talked about. The name hidden figures is symbolic for our current education system. There needs to be a specific push for diverse resources so students don't ask why no one looks like me in the classroom.

Projects & Activities

[Presidents and the Enslaved](#): Helping Students Find the Truth (*Research Project*) and Play

This is a teaching project to learn about American history through the eyes of our leaders. I think this is just a start to a project. Researching presidents and their values could be a good way to look at America's priorities through times and how good and bad can happen. This is also a research project so kids will be learning about primary and secondary sources and citations. This can lead to creating a modern play from a historic moment. For example, in fifth grade, my class

put on a play that took the Trojan War to present day America. Being able to relate past events to modern day events teaches kids that just because something happened in the past doesn't mean it's over. Hamilton is a good example about using modern music to teach history.

Sixth & Seventh Grade

Readings

***Maus* by Art Spiegelman**

This is a graphic novel that covers the experience of someone who survived the Holocaust. This book will allow students to learn about WW2 in a new and engaging way. This book should probably be taught in 7th grade since history classes are more focused on modern civilizations. It's good for examining the roles of different groups and individuals and how they contribute to social, political, cultural, economic development through world history

***Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis**

A young boy sets out to find his father. This coming of age story uses humor, music and obstacles during the Great Depression to explain the difficulty of growing up during challenging circumstances. This book perfectly combines the expectations of sixth and seventh grade social studies and ELA. Students are expected to begin analyzing the deeper meanings of books and pick up recurring themes. This book allows students to better their critical thinking skills.

***Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan**

This book is about a girl who grew up in Mexico with all that she ever needed. However, the girl and her mother leave to go to California. The book takes place during the Great Depression and teaches students about privilege and bias. It also explains immigration and the stigma Americans have created around immigrants. In these class years there is an emphasis on teaching economic systems. Learning about the Great Depression can help students understand different government systems.

***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie**

This book is about a Native American boy who enters a new school while still living on a reservation. The boy faces backlash because of his ethnicity and struggles to fit in. In sixth grade students learn about early civilization, but this book will allow students to understand the passage of time and how past conflicts lead to the oppression of Indigenous people. This book can be read in other class years as well. This is on the more advance side of middle schoolers. I also want to mention that there have been issues with Sherman Alexie, which should be addressed and not ignored. Alexie has wonderful collections of poems that are perfect for these topics as well.

Videos

[The Dangers of a Single Story](#) (20mins)

I've seen this TED talk multiple times and I still continue to go back and watch it again. Famous author, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, speaks on the dangers of understanding a small portion of someone's life. This video is important to show at a younger age, especially in middle school years, because it emphasizes the importance of forming relationships without a bias.

Underwater Dream (1hr 26mins)

This movie is about a group of students who come from undocumented Mexican immigrants. The students go off to compete in a robotics competition with some of the best schools out there. This movie continues to teach students about bias and systemic problems since success is harder to reach for different identities. The movie is about overcoming, while influencing students to rethink their previous biases on immigrants.

Projects & Activities

Plan a Nonprofit Organization

Creating a nonprofit will teach kids more about our economic systems, while explaining the situations in which people need to fundraise. These nonprofits should be directed towards helping a cause that is currently happening in the world today. Students will then present their nonprofits to the class. This teaches kids teamwork, economic roles, problems that might not be mentioned in the curriculum and public speaking.

A Single Story

A project that would go well with The Danger of a Single Story is for the students to write a single story about themselves. Students will pass their stories around and another student will write down what they learned from the story without any other context. Students will receive their stories back and write down context of the story that could affect how someone responds to the story. This activity allows students to personally experience the dangers of a single story.

Eighth Grade

Readings

***A People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn**

The book teaches American History from the point of view of those who are usually not represented in our history textbooks. In High School students have options to take more classes on American history. Preparing students to look at each historical event with caution by reminding students whose perspective it's being told from will allow students to understand our history and how issues become systemic. Additionally, in 8th grade, history is taught covering the first half of US history.

***The Hate U Give* by Lyn Miller Lachman**

A teenage girl goes to school in a richer neighborhood. She ends up witnessing a police officer killing her friend. This book is very fitting with our current political climate. Police brutality is a serious public health threat to the Black community. Students are able to get a firsthand look on the prejudices against the Black community through the eyes of a witness who is stuck between two worlds. The books show the role governments play during modern revolutions that roots back far in our history.

Videos

[Lincoln](#) (2.5hrs)

This movie is about Abraham Lincoln and how he worked towards abolishing slavery. It's a movie that will keep students engaged while reviewing the environment of the 17th century when fighting for freedom. This movie fits with the history curriculum since there is an emphasis on the first half of US history. Additionally, it is a way for students to continue learning about the functions of our government. It is important when teaching this movie to emphasize how films representing history will either alter or leave out important details of the truth. This is to compel people to come to the movie, however it can be misleading.

[13th](#) (1hr 40mins)

This movie is about the 13th amendment and how there is a loophole that many people have ignored. It teaches the dangers of teaching a single perspective of history. It introduces students to the criminal justice system, which is rarely taught in our schools. The film is a great continuation of the movie Lincoln because it demonstrates how history can be misleading. It teaches students the flaws of our criminal justice system and the prejudices we have against those who are incarcerated. The movie emphasizes how racism is still present today by explaining that our criminal justice system is a way to discriminate against Black people and

people of color. This lines up with the history curriculum and eighth grade's emphasis on rules of law in US systems.

Projects & Activities

Living Wax Museum

Living Wax Museum is a popular event held at schools. It is when a student researches a single person who is important to history (dead or alive). The goal is for students to educate others by seeing the experiences of people from a first-person scenario.

Allies and Accomplices

A research project on leaders, like Abraham Lincoln, in which students can determine what characterizes a performative ally or someone who is actively anti-racist based on his recurring actions. This project will teach students about allyship while recognizing that the shortcomings of our past influence people's lives today.

High School

Literature

***House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende**

A family in Latin America struggles different issues faced during the 20th century. In 10th grade there is an emphasis on Global Studies. Latin America is also an area that our curriculums usually gloss over. Reading a novel about Latin America will help students understand the culture and experiences of others, especially in modern history. Additionally, the complexity of the book helps students learn how to think critically and analyze harder story lines.

***Sula* by Toni Morrison**

Two friends who grow up together and their relationship faces many hardships due to their different stances on how the black community should be examined. In ninth grade there is an emphasis on the second half of US history. This book continues the conversation on how the Black community is treated up until present times. Toni Morrison's writing allows students to develop skills to understand complex topics. The book allows students to use Morrison's creativity to talk about a systemic problem.

***Beloved* by Toni Morrison**

This book is a difficult novel to read because of the complexity of the writing and the hardships we watch the characters face. The book is about a woman who runs away from enslavement yet is unable to shake the memories of her past. This book includes poetry too, which will expand the students' creativity through different styles of writing. The book allows students to step out of their comfort zone when writing papers, especially since the challenges faced in this novel are harder to understand compared to other books suggested on this resource list.

***We Should All Be Feminists* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

This book is written by the same woman who presented the Dangers of a Single Story at a TED talk. This book is based off another one of her TEDx talks, in which she speaks out about feminism, the stereotypes, the challenges and the barriers. It's a shorter book that outlines the reasons we all should be feminists. In high school students are expected to create their own opinions and analyses from the complex text they are given. This book will allow students to gain knowledge about sexism in our world. After reading this book, students should start analyzing the information given to them from a feminist perspective.

***The Untold Story of the Real Me: Young Voices from Prison* edited by Tara Libert**

This book holds the poems of incarcerated people who were sentenced as adults when they were still underage. Through poetry the kids were able to express the pain and hardships faced when

being incarcerated. This book is important to teach because students need to be aware of our unjust criminal justice system. There is a stigma around people who are incarcerated which needs to be broken since many people in jail are there for minor crimes or not being able to keep up with the parole board. Students reading these poems will realize that the authors were the same age as them when living in prison. This connection brings awareness to the violence and pain of incarcerated people. It covers themes of racism, sexism, government functions, liberty and self-identity.

Videos

Before listing my video suggestions, I want to share experiences I had in high school. I was lucky enough to go to a private school where we were allowed to drift from the state's strict curriculum. In high school there was one of two days a school year that they would cancel all classes and watch a movie like *Selma* and *The Central Park Five* as a school. Following the movie, we break out into discussion groups about what we watched and the purpose of stopping a full day of learning to focus on topics like this. I wonder if there is a way to take a day to do something similar which will allow students to have a break from the normal rhythm of school, but also directly look at problems that are continuing to happen today.

[He Named Me Malala](#) (1.5hrs)

This movie is about the life of Malala and her global movement to fight for education for women. Against all odds she overcame and continues to influence the world with her inspiration. Since there is an emphasis on Global Studies during 10th grade, this movie and even snippets from her book would show firsthand accounts of what women will do for an education. It also shows students that school is a privilege and should appreciate the opportunities they have. Once they realize their privilege many people join organizations that help fight for women's education globally.

[Selma](#) (2hrs)

This movie is based on Martin Luther King Jr's fight against voter oppression and segregation. The movie depicts the information in an engaging way, which draws students in without realizing the effect their experience will have on the knowledge being given to them. This movie fits with the curriculum in ninth grade, which focuses on the second half of US history. Additionally, junior and senior year are elective based. Students taking US History or Government and Law classes, will learn a lot from this film. It continues to fit Pennsylvania's standards of creating well rounded students who analyze critical information to develop their own thoughts and opinions.

[The Central Park Five](#) (2hrs)

This is a documentary about the five boys who were accused and sentenced after being charged with the murder and rape of a white woman in central park. This movie goes deeper into the criminal justice system and the criminalization of Black boys. This movie works with Pennsylvania's standards because it continues to allow students to take knowledge they have been taught the past years and applying it to systemic issues that they witness today.

Projects & Activities

Perspective

Present the Cold War from different perspectives. Following World War II, The Cold War is a fight between the Soviet Union and the United States of America. However, due to allyships, the whole world is involved. Different groups of students should pick or be assigned a country to research its role during the war. This allows students to expand their perspectives of history, while teaching about the second half of American History.

Classroom Debate

Classroom Debates can work in many different ways. When I was a student, in different classes we would take books we read or historic events and split the class up between judges, prosecutors and defendants.

Faculty Resources

Websites

Rethinking Schools

<https://rethinkingschools.org/>

Rethinking Schools is a nonprofit organization that wants to integrate social justice and activism teaching. Their goal is to create a foundation for the education system that emphasizes diverse learnings, and experiences.

Anti-Bias Education for Young Children and Ourselves

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/books/anti-bias-education>

This book tackles the problem of systemic racism. There is no immediate change that can be done to fix the problem. However, self-awareness and education allow students to recognize injustices. The book's goal is to be able to teach anti-bias material. We are all bias, but recognizing the bias will allow for change.

The Collaborative for Academic Social and Emotional Learning

<https://casel.org/>

This organization helps schools by implementing Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). SEL teaches students how to understand themselves. Being able to recognize your emotions, actions and interaction allows for stronger relationships. The goal is Self-Awareness. The organization helps members of the education system learn SEL and how to teach others. It also advocates for more schools to adapt SEL.

Trying Together

<https://tryingtogether.org/community-resources/anti-racism-tools/>

This website focuses on early childhood education. It talks about ideas on how to incorporate antiracist teachings starting at a young age. The website is about how to educate young students while emphasizing the importance of community engagement, advocacy and social justice.

[2020 Curriculum Resource Guide](#)

Additionally, on this page is a resource for educators on how to create a curriculum that is anti-racist. It was made by Trying Together to give free resources to schools for

Zinn Education Project

<https://www.zinnedproject.org/>

Similar to Trying Together, this project's goal is to make sure the materials taught in history are accurate and taught from different perspectives. The website includes resources for different grade levels and history topics. They also have suggested classroom activities.

Mental Health Resource

<https://www.self.com/story/black-mental-health-resources>

This article goes over different resources to help Black students find help while living through these hard times. Not all schools can provide the help Black students need, but providing resources to help is a start.

Extra Literature

- Uprooting Racism by Paul Kivel
- White Like Me by Tim Wise
- Courageous Conversations About Race by Glenn E. Singleton
- White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo

REFERENCES

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