

BUSD & Cesar Chavez & Dolores Huerta Commemorative Committee



PRESENT:

Cesar Chavez & Dolores Huerta
Commemoration Contest:

Mendez v. Westminster

“Every Moment is an organizing opportunity, every person a potential activist, every minute a chance to change the world.” – Dolores Huerta

To celebrate the legacy and work of Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, Berkeley Unified School District and the Cesar Chavez Dolores Huerta Commemorative Committee (CCDHCC) are encouraging all 2nd – 12th grade students to participate in our annual essay/poetry/art contest!

This year, the contest will be based on one of these three books.

- 2nd-4th Graders: “Separate is Never Equal” by Duncan Tonatiuh or “Sylvia and Aki” by Winifred Conkling
- 5th-12th Graders: “Mendez v. Westminster” by Philippa Strum

You can find a copy of the books either through your teacher, at your school library, or one of the Berkeley public libraries.

CONTEST RULES

1. The dates of the contest are from March 15 – April 11th, 2017
2. BUSD students in 2nd to 12th grade can participate in the contest.
3. You must submit one of the following.
 - A one-page essay, poem, or spoken word in English or Spanish (whichever you know best). Please type *or* write your submission on a white sheet of paper (letter 8 1/2 x 11 in
 - Artwork no larger than 8.5 X 17
4. Your essay/poetry/art submission must include the following information:
 - Full name ➤ Grade Level
 - Age ➤ School Name
5. Submit your essay in one of the following ways:
 - To your school principal ➤ Email to ofee@berkeley.net
 - Mail via US Postal Service to: Office of Family Engagement and Equity, 2020 Bonar St. Berkeley, CA 94702 Attn: Ann Callegari, OFEE Supervisor

THE DEADLINE TO RECEIVE SUBMISSIONS IS 4 P.M. TUESDAY, APRIL 11TH, 2017

6. A panel comprised of BUSD, Cesar Chavez & Dolores Huerta Commemoration Committee, City of Berkeley and community representatives will review the submissions and choose five winners in each category representing essays, poetry-spoken word and visual art.
7. BUSD will announce the winners on April 20th, 2017
8. Winners (accompanied by a parent/guardian) will be honored at a small ceremony with essay/ visual art and poetry-spoken word exhibit on April 26th, 2017 from 4 to 5:30 in the school district board room – 1231 Addison St. Berkeley, CA 94702

ESSAY PROMPTS 2017

Mendez vs. Westminster

Sylvia Mendez, who received the Presidential Medal of Freedom at a 2011 White House ceremony, was a child when she was turned away from a California public school for "whites only." That rejection fueled her father's determined journey through school, civic, and legal channels. Gonzalo Mendez, represented by a civil rights attorney, took four Los Angeles-area school districts to court and won a class action lawsuit at the trial and appellate levels of the federal court system. Ms. Mendez carries on the legacy of Mendez v. Westminster when she explains that her parents taught her: "That we are all individuals; that we are all human beings; that we are all connected together; and that we all have the same rights, the same freedom."

Please answer in an essay format/poetry or poster:

2nd through 4th graders will respond to the following questions through essay/poetry or art after reading: "Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation" or "Sylvia and Aki"

- In 2017, why is what happened to the Mendez family in 1947 important to remember, read about and discuss?
- Why are segregated schools wrong for students?
- Do you believe the Mendez v. Westminster case was right or wrong? Explain Why?

5th through 12th graders will respond to the following questions through essay/poetry or art after reading: "Mendez v. Westminster"

- Why do you think public schools were segregated before 1947 in America? What were segregated schools like?
- What makes Mendez v. Westminster relevant to the national political climate we are experiencing today?
- Besides the Mendez v. Westminster case, what other cities and states were involved to end public school segregation? Who was affected by these cases and how were these cases similar or different?
- What does the 14th Amendment have to do with the Mendez v. Westminster ruling?

Suggested Links

Cesar Chavez Dolores Huerta Commemorative Committee website: <http://www.chavezhuerta.org/>

For Students: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mendez_v._Westminster

<https://www.texasbar.com/civics/High%20School%20cases/mendez-v-westminster.html>

<http://ca.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/osi04.soc.ush.civil.mendez/mendez-v-westminsterdesegregating-californias-schools/>

<http://ecologycenter.org/chavez/why-now-is-the-time-to-honor-dolores-huerta/> by BUSD Teacher Elizabeth Fuentes For Adults and older students

<http://ca.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/bln13.socst.ush.now.busingfour/boston-desegregationfour-years-later-1978/>

<http://mendezetalvwestminster.com/>

<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/lasting-impact-mendez-v-westminsterstruggle-desegregation>

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?295471-1/mendez-v-westminster>-1 hour video of Philippa Strum author of Mendez v. Westminster