A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT FORD MORTHEL: ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

Dear Berkeley Unified community,

May is an exciting month that honors many important communities. This month we are taking time to uplift, center, and celebrate the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities with the full acknowledgement that these communities are richly diverse, have a breadth of histories, lived experiences, needs- and that one month is never enough time to fully honor their contributions.

Beginning in 1990, the U.S. government designated the month of May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. May was chosen as AAPI month because it marks the arrival of 14 year old Manjiro, considered the first Japanese immigrant in the United States on May 7, 1843, as well as the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, which was completed due to the back breaking labor of over 20,000 Chinese immigrants.

This May you will see a variety of acronyms in use, such as Asian Pacific Islander (API), Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AANHPI), Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA), or you might come across calls to separate Asian American from Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander because the difference in needs are more and more important to shine a light on. Most months when I write these letters, I name how a month is never enough time to reflect on, teach about, and celebrate how vastly diverse each community truly is. In March of 2021 our school district passed a school board resolution Denouncing Hate Crimes and Bigotry Targeting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. In this resolution we affirmed how, "the rise of anti-AAPI racism and violence that occurs every day also serves as a reminder of the dire need for Ethnic Studies from k-12th grades, because if we do not develop anti-racist consciousness with and for our youth, White supremacy ideology will persist." All of this nuance around identity and naming is deep, happening in real time, and we as an educational institution acknowledge the limitations of heritage and history months, which is why our district is dedicated to investing in ethnic studies work in all of our schools. We know that our students and families deserve more than a month, more than an assembly; our children deserve curriculums that are truly affirming, nuanced, and inclusive.

Here in Berkeley, we are committed to ho'ohana in order to make our schools welcoming and affirming spaces for all of our students, (Native Hawaiian for purposeful work filled with passion and full intention). And we are committed to ho'ohana in solidarity with all of our communities because together, we are stronger.

In unity,

Enikia Ford Morthel
Superintendent, Berkeley Unified School District

Berkeley PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Excellence • Equity • Engagement • Enrichment

ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH TK-8 TEACHING RESOURCES

Compiled by Joemy Ito-Gates, Ethnic Studies TSA in collaboration with BUSD AAPI Members

Classroom Posters:
8.5x11
11x17

Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya

GET INTERSECTIONAL*

- ARTICLE Our Voice: The Resilience of Queer AAPI Youth
- VIDEO Queer, Muslim, & South Asian
- ARTICLE I Grew Up Jewish, But That's Not How the World Sees Me
- VIDEO LUNAR: Jewish Enough. Asian Enough.
- ARTICLE I'm a Pacific Islander Too: Melanesian Women on Colorism and Anti-Blackness
- VIDEO What Mixed Race Asians Will Never Tell You
- ARTICLE On Being Black and Asian American
- VIDEO Alice Wong: Making Space For More Disabled Asians
- PROJECT Disability Visibility Project by Alice Wong
- ARTICLE Asian Americans with Disabilities Are Often Overlooked
- VIDEO Korean American adoptee experiences
- PODCAST interview of Joemy Ito-Gates, Multiracial Japanese American Transracial Adoptee, Ethnic Studies TSA for BUSD
- ARTICLE 'I'm not allowed to feel those things': How adoptees experience anti-Asian hate

EXPAND KNOWLEDGE

- VIDEO Are You "AAPI" or "Asian American"? It's Complicated (Why Ethnic Studies Matters)
- ARTICLE These Activists Coined the Term "Asian American" (Emma Gee and Yuji Ichioka from Berkeley!)
- ARTICLE 11 Moments from Asian American History That You Should Know
- ARTICLE Why It's Time to Retire the Term Asian Pacific Islander
- ARTICLE How to Talk to Children About Anti-Asian Hate
- VIDEOS Asian Americans PBS Mini-series
- VIDEO Asian Americans Have A Long History Of Activism In The US
- VIDEO Why Do We Call Asian Americans The Model Minority?
- VIDEO What Pacific Islanders Want You to Know

Portrait of Haunani-Kay Trask by Melanie Cervantes, Bay Area Artist

- VIDEO SERIES We are Not a Stereotype, Breaking Down Asian Pacific American Bias
- TIMELINE Interactive Asian American Timeline
- VIDEO The Untold Story Of America's Southern Chinese

*Intersectional is a term coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw

AAPI PEOPLE TO KNOW

A collage image of poet, Terisa Siagatonu

- Terisa Siagatonu, award-winning poet, teaching artist, mental health educator, and community leader born and rooted in the Bay Area
- Corky Lee, iconic photographer of Asian America
- Haunani-Kay Trask, Hawaiian activist, educator, author, and poet who served as leader of the Hawaiian sovereignty movement and was professor emeritus at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- Arooj Aftab, musician
- Mia Mingus, Bay Area writer, educator, and community organizer for Disability Justice
- Leoshina Kariha, 2018 Miss Papua New Guinea and Miss Pacific Islands
- Bryan Thao Worra, poet
- Sandy Ho, queer Asian American Disability Advocate
- Litokne Kabua, climate justice activist
- Mina Feder, AAPI Youth Rising founder (from Berkeley!)
- H.E.R., Bay Area Grammy award winning musician
- ARTICLE Meet 5 Pacific Women Activists Who Are Changing the World
- ARTICLE 10 Young Asian American and Pacific Islander Activists You Should Know

- Anthony Brown, African/Choctaw and Japanese descent Bay Area musician
- Sana Amanat, comic book writer who co-created, Ms. Marvel
- Rabbi Angela W. Buchdahl, first Asian American to be ordained as a rabbi and hazzan
- Lenore Chinn, Bay Area Artist and LGBTQ+ Activist
- Chella Man, artist who is Chinese American, Jewish, Deaf and genderqueer
- Tonga Victoria, East Palo Alto Tongan author
- Crystal Jang, San Francisco LGBTQIA+ activist
- Alok Vaid-Menon, gender non-conforming and transfeminine writer, performer, and public speaker
- Yuna, Malaysian Muslim musician
- Nisha Kaur Sethi, artist, Berkeley born and raised
- Kaylani Juanita, femme queer children's book illustrator and artist
- Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner, poet, performer, educator
- Alice Wong, San Francisco Disability rights activist
- Rabbi Mira Rivera, first Filipina-American Rabbi to be ordained at The Jewish Theological Seminary; VIDEO of Sukkot action at Trump Tower

Nisha K. Sethi, Bay Area artist

CURRICULUM FOR ALL GRADES

- SFUSD Teaching Resources Slide Deck
- MUSIC VIDEO Our Friend, Larry Itliong Music Video
- MUSIC VIDEO Think Mink! About Patsy Mink (sign-up for free account to access)
- LESSONS by the Asian Art Museum
- PBS Asian American video clips and supporting resources
- The Asian American Education Project
- National Education Association
- Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center
- Zinn Education Project
- Fred Korematsu curriculum
- BAYANI ART Filipinx books and resources

ELEMENTARY

- SLIDE DECK lesson on Yuri Kochiyama by Joemy Ito-Gates, Ethnic Studies TSA for BUSD
- SLIDE DECK lesson on Herb Wong by Washington Elementary teachers
- SLIDE DECK lesson on Yoshiko Uchida by BUSD teachers
- COLORING BOOK Amazing Asian Americans coloring book
- VIDEO about Grace Lee Boggs, activist, philosopher, and feminist
- VIDEO about Mia Yamamoto, Japanese American WWII Incarceree, lawyer, and Trans activist
- STORY TELLING videos by Asian American Storytopia

Julia Kestner Designs

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- EDSITE lessons and resources
- LESSON Angel Island & Chinese Exclusion
- PBS Asian American video clips and supporting resources
- LESSONS by the Asian Art Museum
- The Asian American Education Project

AAPI Reading List from BUSD Library