

diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI)

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Riverview School



June 17, 2021 / Issue #6 / School Year Wrap-Up

Welcome to Riverview's 6th staff newsletter. We can't thank everyone enough for the outpouring of support as we launched our DEI efforts within our Riverview Community this year! We are eager to continue growing both as a community and as individuals. We are making efforts to improve and grow this newsletter for our community. We hope it serves as an easy resource for personal and professional growth in various areas related to DEI. We encourage you to read our [introductory letter](#) which speaks to the goals of this newsletter, and how to access all the resources within this newsletter. You can also view a list of our [fellow committee members](#) here.

This past week, we were thrilled that the Senate and House overwhelmingly passed the recognition of Juneteenth (or June 19th) as a federal holiday commemorating the official abolition of slavery in the United States. Please refer to our "Juneteenth Resource" section for more information about this historic moment.

SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE

DEI at Riverview, a wrap-up to the 2020-2021 School Year

From the DEI COMMITTEE

In this inaugural year, the DEI Committee have experienced many firsts, and made important strides toward our goals. Split into two subcommittees- Staff Development and Student Programming/Curriculum- both quickly went to work, and developed exciting initiatives, some already up and running, others still to come.

From the Staff Development Committee, the monthly staff newsletter was created to help shed light and educate on diversity, equity, and inclusion topics. Alongside the newsletters, book clubs were held to help dive further into topics, more specifically this year exploring racism with the titles: *So You Want to Talk About Race?*, *White Fragility*, and *Four Hundred Souls*, all of which are still available to borrow. Also a part of this committee's work was the series of educational emails on neurodiversity in honor of 'Autism Acceptance' in April.

Looking toward student impact, the Student Programming/Curriculum Committee has begun projects that include: reaching out to other schools about their approaches to DEI, building resource lists for faculty and staff, and researching curriculum. The committee developed a curriculum for a Saturday Enrichment day in recognition of African-American History Month. They also founded a new student-led group, L.E.A.D (Let's Engage and Advocate for Diversity!), which just recently put out their first student newsletter. It is a great read, if you haven't had the chance to see it yet, you definitely should!

This summer, the DEI Committee as a whole will be looking at other tangible projects to take on for the 2021-2022 school year, hoping to keep up our momentum. It has been a great experience for all members working closely together to help foster a welcoming and inclusive community for all students and staff. Thank you for reading, and enjoy the articles below as we celebrate Pride Month, Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and the upcoming Juneteenth holiday!

PRIDE MONTH: ARTICLES AND RESOURCES

- [Best Practices for Serving LGBTQ Students](#): CORY COLLINS, JEY EHRENHALT- LEARNING FOR JUSTICE
- [Pride Month Too Often Overlooks LGBTQ Members with Disabilities](#): SARAH KIM- FORBES, June 24, 2019
- [LGBTQ Pride Month and Education Resources](#): ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE
- [Pride During the Pandemic](#): ANDREW HARRIS, MASS GENERAL HOSPITAL, June 2021

AAP I HERITAGE MONTH: ARTICLES AND RESOURCES

- [Breathing Fire: Remembering Asian Pacific American Activism in Queer History](#): AMY SUEYOSHI, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
- [Understanding AAPI Heritage: Terms to Know About Asian & Pacific Island People, Culture, & Geography](#): DICTIONARY.COM
- [There were 3,800 anti-Asian racist incidents, mostly against women, in past year](#): KIMMY YAM, NBC NEWS, March 16, 2021
- [Here's What The New Hate Crimes Law Aims To Do As Attacks On Asian Americans Rise](#): BARBARA SPRUNT, NPR, May 20, 2021

JUNETEENTH: ARTICLES AND RESOURCES

- [Senate passes bill to establish Juneteenth as a national holiday](#): MARQUISE FRANCIS, YAHOO NEWS, June 15, 2021
- [1619 Project](#): NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE
- [Juneteenth Observance and Resources](#): MAAPS
- [So You Want to Learn About Juneteenth?](#): DERRICK BRYSON TAYLOR, NY TIMES, June 16, 2021

DC DOCKET

DEI Bills on the Floor.

- **HR1: For the People Act of 2021**, To expand Americans' access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and implement other anti-corruption measures for the purpose of fortifying our democracy, and for other purposes.
- **HR5: Equality Act**, To prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, and for other purposes.
- **HR1443: LGBTQ Business Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment Act**, To amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to require the collection of small business loan data related to LGBTQ-owned businesses.
- **HR1280: George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021**, President Biden and Vice President Harris are calling on the Senate to pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which will fundamentally transform policing in America by addressing implicit biases and racial profiling, curbing police brutality, and enforcing accountability. House Democrats passed the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act last month. It's past time for Senate Republicans to join Democrats and follow suit. This legislation would ban chokeholds, end qualified immunity for law enforcement, ban no-knock warrants in federal drug cases, and create a nationwide police misconduct registry.

Demand reform: Call your senator! *Call the United States Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 to be connected with your senator's office, and demand that the Senate pass these bills.*

SUPPORTING EACH OTHER

We want this to be a safe space for learning.

As we begin many important dialogues, and encourage colleagues to lean into discomfort, we also want to remind everyone to do so in a respectful manner: Listen to understand, be raggedy, speak from personal experience, disagree without being disagreeable, tend to impact, make the implicit explicit, agree to uncover.

SHARE FEEDBACK

Feel free to contact us below or here: [DEI Feedback](#).

Newsletter Committee Member Contact List

Kate Ayson kayson@riverviewschool.org

Tess Blackwell tblackwell@riverviewschool.org

Liz Clancy-Coleman eccoleman@riverviewschool.org

Phil Gerard pgerard@riverviewschool.org

Rich Marvin rmarvin@riverviewschool.org

Kim McKinnis kmckinnis@riverviewschool.org

Kyle Merrill krmerrill@riverviewschool.org

Ann Phelan aphelan@riverviewschool.org

Austin Rindfuss arindfuss@riverviewschool.org

Erin Rindfuss erindfuss@riverviewschool.org

Brooke Sylvia bsylvia@riverviewschool.org

Maura Wright mwright@riverviewschool.org

Caitlin Yip cyip@riverviewschool.org

Riverview School is a community that values and celebrates diversity as essential to the experience of our students, staff and community. We embrace and respect differences, including but not limited to: race, socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, cultural heritage, educational background, and of course learning styles. As a community that aspires to reflect and prepare our students for the increasingly diverse world, Riverview supports and nurtures the whole child and their full identity.