



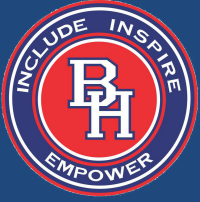
Berkeley Heights Public Schools Diversity Initiative

March 18 , 2021

Dr. Melissa Varley, Superintendent
Mr. Steve Hopkins, Supervisor

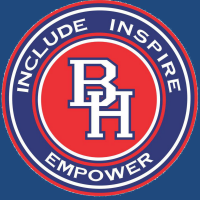
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force





DEI Task Force Mission

The purpose of the DEI Task Force is to create a DEI strategic plan that will be added to the District's current strategic plan. It will also create the metrics by which DEI progress will be measured.



DEI Task Force Composition

1 Consultant (Chair)

2 Administrators

3 Faculty

2 Students

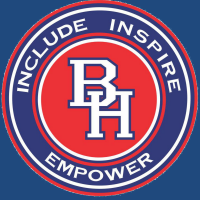
2 Recent Graduates

4 Current Parents

1 Parent of a Recent Graduate



Elementary Diversity Committee

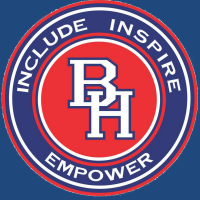


Elementary Diversity Committee Update

- Gathered and analyzed elementary survey data on diversity and inclusion. Over 96% of students in grades K-5 reported positive feelings of belonging; being both culturally and personally accepted, and supported by their teachers.
- Ongoing creation of more diverse “I can see myself in the books I read” libraries with the generous support of the BHEF.
- A K-5 cross-building Black History Research Project was completed in February. All students engaged in this common project, and each student became an expert on his/her person, and then shared their expertise.
- Celebrations: MLK Kindness and Justice Challenge, Lunar New Year, World Day of Social Justice, and Women's History Month.
- Author and storyteller Tahira presented a virtual program where music was used to explain the Underground Railroad.
- Author Carmen Rubin presented her books focused on diversity and kindness.

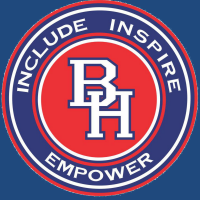
GL and CMS Diversity Committees





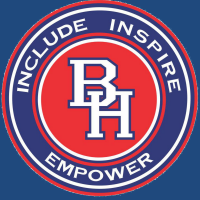
Student Presenters

- Alyssa Pradhan - Grade 11
- Lauren Gomez - Grade 10
- Leah Brogden - Grade 8



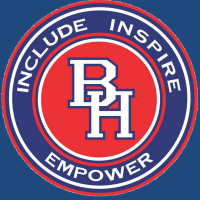
CMS Events

- Literary Circle: “The Hate U Give” - supported by the BHEF - Over 30 students, staff, and community members were involved.
- A group of CMS students and faculty attended the Kean University Diversity Leadership Conference for middle school students.
- Heritage Action team sent out Chinese/Lunar New Year public service announcements.
- Students created a Black History bulletin in the main hallway that will remain up for the duration of the school year.
- As part of a service project, Girl Scouts have created beautiful canvas works of art to decorate the girls A Wing and B Wing bathrooms promoting positive messages to lift girls spirits about self-image/worth. C Wing bathroom will also be done.



GLHS Events

- Literary Circle: “Born a Crime” - Sponsored by the BHEF - Over 60 participants consisting of students, staff, and members of the community and Berkeley Heights Diversity Committee.
- “The Hill We Climb” Amanda Gorman Inaugural poem round table discussion. Led by Christine Talarico. Over 30 students and staff participated in the discussion.
- Speaker - Rwandan Genocide Survivor - Kizito Klima - for Project Connect freshman.
- Understanding Asians Club - Notable Asian Women Informational Flyer for Women’s History Month.
- SAGA Club has been hosting a series of Lunch and Learn titled “Support Zones.” The goal of the support zone is to open up a dialog between students and staff.



GLHS/ CMS Upcoming Events

- Women's History Month - Women's Leadership Event with Mayor Angie Devanney - perspectives and experiences of a woman in public office.
- Holocaust and Genocide Awareness - Roundtable - "What it Means to Never Forget: Being a Grandchild of a Holocaust Survivor" - Staci Toporek.
- Model UN is planning a series of events around Holocaust Awareness month and hopefully culminating with a talk by Wai Wai Nu- a former political prisoner and founder and Executive Director of the Women's Peace Network - about the plight of the Rohingya.
- In the planning stages for Diversity Festival at CMS in May.

QUESTIONS?

