



Department of History and Social Studies

Arlington Public Schools

School Committee | April 27, 2023

Presented by Kaitlin Moran, Director of
History and Social Studies

Agenda



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- Director's Introduction
- Department vision/mission alignment
- Updates for 2022-23
- Action Steps for 2023-24
- Q&A

Director's Update



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Kaitlin Moran (she/her), MAT, Ed.M.

- 10+ years as public school history and ESL teacher
- 8+ years as administrator
- 2+ years as a college faculty
- 2+ years as a business owner and education consultant

My why: American dreams

“Research shows that civics education works. Discussing controversial issues, engaging in service learning if it involves discussion of “root causes,” being contacted by parties and campaigns, and participating in extracurricular groups all predict good civic outcomes for students,” said Trey Grayson, former Kentucky Secretary of State (R-KY), Director of the Harvard Institute of Politics and member of CIRCLE’s *Commission on Youth Voting and Civic Knowledge*. **“As a teacher we surveyed stated, civic education ‘is essential if we are to continue as a free democratic society’.”**

District Vision



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*The vision of the Arlington Public Schools is to be an equitable educational community where **all learners feel a sense of belonging**, experience **growth and joy**, and are empowered to shape their own futures and contribute to a better world.*

Department Vision



The vision of the Arlington Public Schools History and Social Studies Department is to graduate students who:

- *Deeply know how history informs the present*
- *Understand the world around them*
- *Engage in rigorous discussion with people whose views are similar and different to their own*
- *Focus on learning as a process and are comfortable self-assessing and reflecting on their own progress*
- *Feel connected to and supported by their communities*
- *Act as informed agents of change in our democratic and connected world*

Department Mission



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The mission of the Arlington Public Schools History and Social Studies Department is to:

- *Teach lessons that showcase all experiences, including how people whose voices have been historically marginalized, were, and continue to be, agents of change*
- *Utilize multi-modal lessons and authentic assessments, so students can multiple demonstrate their learning while developing life skills (i.e. communication, time management, metacognition, application of content)*
- *Plan curriculum that facilitates the mastery of:*
 - *Analytical reading skills*
 - *Writing techniques that effectively communicate historical and contemporary arguments*
 - *Collegial discussion*
- *Create learning environments where risk-taking is psychologically safe and the process of learning is valued and valuable*
- *Collaborate with our English-Language Support and Special Education colleagues to ensure all students have equitable access to the curriculum*
- *Provide a wide variety of high school electives, so that students have multiple opportunities to explore the various disciplines of social studies*

22-23 Department Goals



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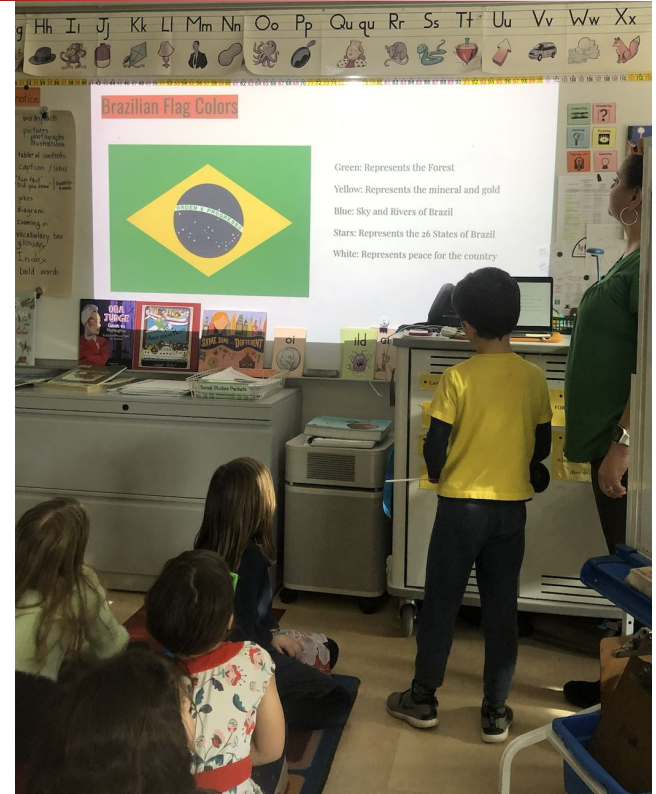
1. Increasing representation of AAPI, Latino, queer and disabled voices in the curriculum
 - a. Department-wide curriculum audit
 - b. Diverse perspectives survey
2. Centering student identity in the classroom
 - a. Updated vision/mission in history
 - b. Instructional rounds feedback
 - c. Inquiry projects
 - d. Student voice and choice
3. Working on uncovering our own biases that influence our professional work
 - a. Collaborative curriculum writing time
 - b. Understanding characteristics of cultures that historically marginalize vulnerable populations

Elementary Update



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- Long-term curriculum revision
 - Inquiry-based
 - Culturally responsive and inclusive
- Continued coaching support
 - ACE block facilitation
 - Piloting new units with extended teacher and student feedback
- Curriculum audit completed and analysis ongoing
- Generous AEF grant for majority ES educators, leaders, coaches to NCSS

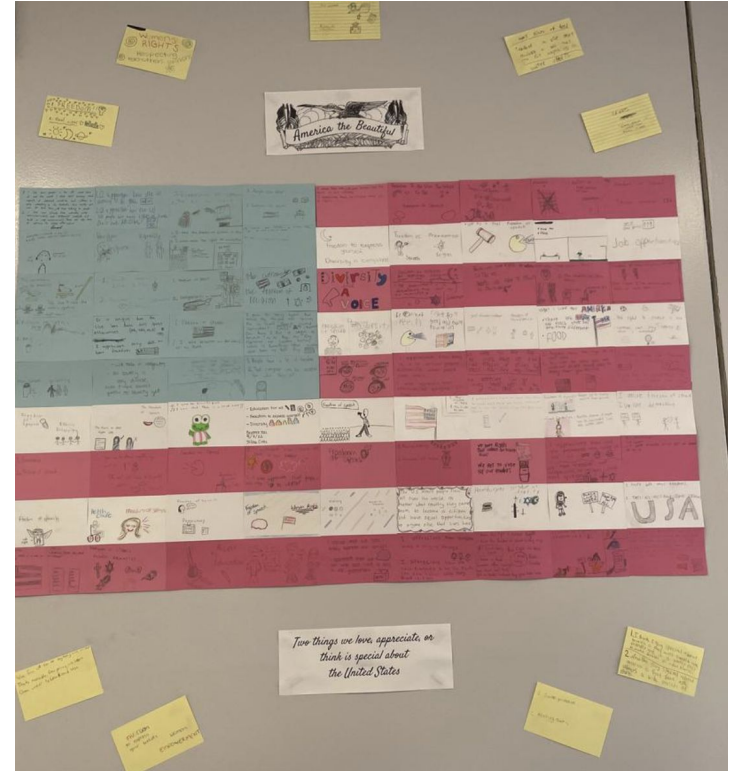


Gibbs/OMS Update



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- One new teacher this year
 - Noah Cabral, Civics
- Curriculum audit completed and analysis ongoing
- First annual OMS Civics Day 3.15.23
 - Panels and workshops with 25+ local leaders and politicians
- National History Day 2023
 - 4 projects to nationals
- MCSS Award for Excellence in Teaching Middle School Social Studies
 - Shaina Byrne



AHS Update



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- Three new teachers this year
 - Emily Tessier, Alexis Daggett, Alvaro Quintero (one-year)
- Curriculum audit completed and analysis ongoing
- National History Day 2023
- Two new courses for 23-24
 - AP African-American Studies
 - Ethnic Studies



23-24 Action Items

- Transition in 23-24 from coaches to curriculum specialists
- Continuation of long-term curriculum revision
- Elementary literacy program integration
- Increasing place-based learning opportunities
- Alignment between the district, ILTs, core departments to work smarter in developing students' skills (TBD)
- AP African-American Studies pilot enrollment and data

Thank you!



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Questions and comments?