

NASHOBA BROOKS SCHOOL

Grades Four, Five and Six Diversity Curriculum Overview 2009-2010

In the 4/5/6 Team, the themes of community, character education and multiple historical perspectives are embedded in the curriculum. Varied topics, including Cinderella stories from around the world and the language and culture of Spanish speaking countries, to the role of women in the Industrial Revolution, are studied through the lens of diversity and inclusiveness. Students work towards the goal of becoming empowered as leaders and advocates for themselves and others.

A sampling of our curriculum includes:

4th GRADE:

- Humanities/ Library: Students study the Middle Ages through the lens of diverse regions such as Great Britain, the Middle East, and Asia. Students then research and build castles as a way to understand how geography and culture impact history. Vocabulary from literature includes: *homelessness, honor, poverty, racism, stereotypes.*
- Writing Workshop: Students examine Cinderella stories from the modern and medieval world including Europe and Asia.
- Science: Students learn about the role of women in science and the various positions that women hold in the field of science. Vocabulary includes: *bias, discrimination, gender, stereotypes.*
- Physical Education: Students learn about bullying, building character, and the cycle of oppression, using sports as model for discussion.
- Art: Students look at Korean celadon ceramic vessels and create their own celadon pottery.

5th GRADE:

- Humanities: Students examine questions such as, “How can I understand events in history from more than one perspective?” In the colonial American unit, students examine how European Settlers, Native Americans, and Africans coexisted.
- Math: Students learn about number systems in other cultures.
- Science: Students learn about some of the flora and fauna found in Central America.
- Spanish: Students learn the language and culture of Spanish speaking countries, and they sponsor a child from Mexico.
- Physical Education: Students study the origin of Title IX and its continued impact on girls’ and women’s sports.
- Drama: Students perform Aesop’s Fables puppet play and relate it to discussions about character and “the moral of the story” of each fable.
- Music: Students research and study women composers/musicians.

6th GRADE:

- Art: Students look at symbols used in West African Adinkra Cloth, and they learn how those symbols were used in African American slave quilts.
- Humanities: Students learn about the role of women and immigrants in the Industrial Revolution/Labor Movement, the Atlantic Slave trade, and the Civil War and Reconstruction.
- Science: Students examine topics such as: the stereotypes of scientists, environmental racism and ecology, and adaptations through evolution.
- Music: Students research folk music from many cultures and present to the class.