

Grade Seven and Grade Eight Diversity Curriculum Overview 2009-2010

Within the 7/8 curriculum, several overarching themes emerge. Students are challenged to look outside their communities and begin to develop some global consciousness. Through study and self-reflection, they explore issues of fairness, equity, and social justice. The team provides opportunities for students to feel empowered to effect change through service learning in advisor groups and class activities. As a result of their work in these areas, the girls develop skills as leaders and agents of change. The goal is to foster the growth of young women who will raise their voices to make a positive difference in the world.

A sampling of our curriculum includes:

Develop Global Consciousness

- 7th Grade Spanish- Students learn about diverse cultures as they examine the traditions, customs, and locations of Spanish-speaking countries. They develop the language skills necessary to help them better understand and respect Spanish-speaking people in their own communities and in the world. In developing a broader perspective, they learn to challenge stereotypes and assumptions.
- 7th Grade Science- Students discuss issues of fairness, responsibility for world resources, and the need to reduce our impact on environment.

Explore Issues of Fairness, Equity, and Social Justice

- 7th Grade Humanities- Through the study of history and self-reflection, students grapple with questions such as: Who are we and where do we come from? How does bias affect what we see and how we act in the world? How can people make a difference in society and the world?
- 7th Grade Physical Education- Students examine race in sports through the lens of African American contributions to track and field. They also explore the evolution of women's basketball shaped by Title IX.
- 8th Grade Social Studies- Students examine the struggle for equal rights in US history by marginalized groups such as Women, Blacks, and GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender) individuals.
- 8th Grade Physical Education- Students consider the importance of creating an atmosphere that is safe for all athletes, including bi-sexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender athletes. Vocabulary includes: *safe space- an environment that promotes the acceptance of all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, or any other difference.*

Effect Change through Service Learning and Leadership

- 7th and 8th Grade Advisor Groups- Students meet in advisor groups twice each week, and the groups address such issues as leadership, global citizenship, and understanding differences. Advisor groups have chosen service learning projects that connect to the themes discussed in group meetings. Students also work with the Sudanese Education Fund and in the process, they learn a great deal about Sudan.
- 7th and 8th Grade Homeroom- Students learn about the problem of homelessness in Massachusetts and what individuals can do to make a difference. Students learn how to contact state legislators and walk in the CROP WALK. They also work with House of Hope and Stocking Project for Women's Lunch Place. Students work with the Red Cross to provide international relief and learn about the organization when they organize and host a blood drive. Students volunteer with Junior BookPALS and read with a buddies at The Condon School in South Boston.