



Mountain View  
Whisman  
School District

# Monthly Heritage/Awareness Recognition

Mountain View Whisman  
School District

5/30/24



# Today's Goals and Objectives

Today we will:

- ❑ Explore community considerations generated by the District Equity Advisory Committee (DEAC) for the acknowledgement of heritage/awareness months in MVWSD
- ❑ Review a list of proposed heritage/awareness recognitions (by month) to be acknowledged annually on an ongoing basis
- ❑ Collect Board feedback

# Alignment to Strategic Plan 2027

## **Goal Area #3: Inclusive and Welcoming Culture**

3B. Expand and enhance culturally-relevant approaches to student, parent and community engagement



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# Current Practice

# #BetterTogetherMVWSD

**#BetterTogetherMVWSD (est. in 2020) is a district-created culture and climate program that promotes a safe, inclusive environment for all**

Components of #BetterTogether include:

Printed (and digital) calendar with building blocks of year-long theme (eg. belonging, allyship, and community) as monthly offerings.

- Digital matrix of activities
- Reference texts and lessons targets
- Monthly training decks for site administrators and staff
- Monthly blurb in the District Newsletter
- No Place for Hate Annual Activities (3)
- PD for Site Administrators and Teachers
- Monthly resolutions



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# Heritage/Awareness Month Selection

# District Equity Advisory Committee

District Equity Advisory Committee met and explored the student-centered ‘why’ around acknowledging heritage/awareness months:

**What do what students need to know/feel or be able to do as a result of learning about these heritage/awareness months?**

<b>Know/Feel</b>	<b>Be Able to Do</b>
<b>All kinds of people make valuable contributions to our communities</b>	<b>Ask respectful questions about people who are not like them</b>
<b>All are seen and welcome in the district</b>	<b>Look at something from a different perspective (new) perspective</b>
<b>About people who make a difference in these various movements (Upstanders and Allies)</b>	<b>Be a good ally</b>

# Selection Parameters

Due to the vast number of possibilities, the following agreed-upon criteria were used to narrow the selection:

- Currently widely recognized/acknowledged in the United States (based on [Harvard's Heritage and Awareness Calendar](#))
- Not affiliated with any particular nationality
- Developmentally-appropriate content
- Consideration given to consolidating similarly-themed months/topics



# Proposed Selections

Month	Heritage/Awareness Topic
September	Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month
October	National Disability Employment Awareness Month
November	Native American Heritage Month
February	Black Heritage Month
March	Women's Heritage Month
April	Arab American Heritage Month
May (3)	Asian American and Pacific Islanders Heritage Month Jewish American Heritage Month Military Appreciation Month
June	LGBGTQ+ Pride Month



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# Shifts in Practice

# Shift in Practice

In an effort to provide consistency and clarity around these Board resolutions and communally recognized heritage/awareness months with the community, the following has been recommended:

- Communication/transparency around monthly topics (at the beginning of the year)
- Consistency—bringing a resolution to the Board for each heritage/awareness month recognized
- Board guidance on selected heritage/awareness months on an annual basis

# Managing Expectations

**This will continue to be an interactive process:**

- Community members are encouraged to give feedback to the Board about their wishes
- Based on feedback from the community, the Board can instruct staff to make changes to the schedule/list at any time
- Equity committee can propose list and bring to BOT in May on an annual basis

# Resolutions for June 13th Meeting:

If approved, anticipated Resolutions will include:

- Arab American Heritage Month (April)
- Jewish American Heritage Month (May)
- LGBTQ+ Heritage Month (June)



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# Next Steps

# Board Feedback

What other aspects should we consider as we move to shift our practice?