

### 3.1 Engage

# ETHNIC STUDIES

## In My School

\* The flags chosen for this slide represent the ethnicities of the students in my 6<sup>th</sup> grade Humanities class.

# CURRENT STATE OF ETHNIC STUDIES



## School Mission

*Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School is a welcoming and inclusive community committed to a tradition of excellence by nurturing hearts, inspiring minds and igniting spirits.*



Ethnic Studies is not a key focal point in our school, however, our families consistently identify that we live our mission of inclusion.



Generally, incorporating ethnically diverse lessons/units is under the purview of individual teachers.



Our Spanish language and Arts programs demonstrate the best examples of ethnic teachings.





# ETHNICITY & CULTURE

Our school offers a Spanish language program for grades K-8. In addition to learning Spanish, students learn about Hispanic and Latinx cultural histories and traditions.

Our Art teacher has adopted and designed an Art curriculum that integrates diverse art histories, celebration of cultures, and affirmation of student identity.

These 2 programs feature lessons on:

-  The language, history, and customs of Spanish-speaking countries.
-  Catholic prayers in Spanish
-  A diverse range of artists, local to the PNW and from around the globe
-  The cultural history of artists and art movements
-  A range of artistic forms of expressions, some rooted in cultural traditions

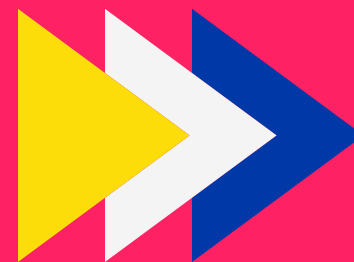
## Suggested Questions for Analyzing the Efficacy of Our Curricula & Pedagogies:

- ➔ How diverse is our curricula? Are we offering our students a range and depth of representation across ethnic groups?
- ➔ When teaching ethnic studies, do we only focus on histories of oppression? Do we teach about the resilience, empowerment, and cultural contributions of diverse peoples?
- ➔ Do we affirm our students' identities, cultural knowledge and experiences?
- ➔ Do we partner with our school families and community experts to amplify the voices and experiences of diverse peoples?

# POTENTIAL ROLLOUT FOR AN ETHNIC STUDIES PROGRAM

To fully live our mission of inclusivity, and in celebration of the diversity of our students' cultural knowledge and experiences, OLL could launch an Ethnic Studies Program in three phases:

- 1) form a committee,
- 2) audit curricula,
- 3) rethink & redesign how we teach.



## MAKE AFFIRMATION OF STUDENT IDENTITY A PEDAGOGICAL GOAL

Identify measurable goals to ensure that student identity & cultural knowledge and experience is affirmed and at the core of our teaching.



### ***Form an Ethnic Studies Committee***

Staff who are well-versed in diversity, equity, and inclusive pedagogies could form a small team to educate our community, plan, and launch an Ethnic Studies program.

### ***Audit the Curricula***

We could invite the Ethnic Studies Committee, School Governance members, and parents representing diverse school communities, to audit our school curricula for diversity & inclusion.

### ***\*Rethink\* & Redesign***

Guided by resources from *Rethinking Schools* and *Dr. Gholdy Muhammad*, along with other community experts, we could analyze how to make improvements to curricula. Then, we could redesign and remap curricula using resources like Muhammad's 5 Pursuits.

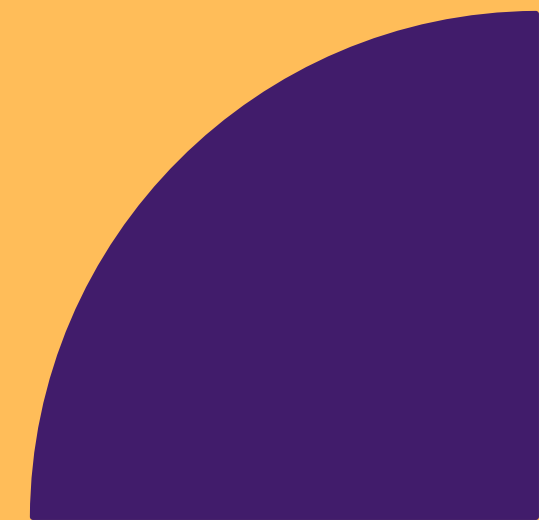


# OBSERVATIONS IN OUR SCHOOL

The classrooms that consistently amplify and affirm student voices, and celebrate diverse cultures, are safe havens for our students furthest from justice.

When we give our students the opportunity to see themselves represented in our curricula, we reflect their *belonging* in our school and affirm their unique ways of knowing, doing, and being as worthy of study and celebration.

Our students need to know that they are valued and loved for their authentic selves. A school with diverse curricula and pedagogies celebrates heterogenous ways of being in the world and helps students feel affirmed and safe.



# OBSERVATIONS IN OUR SCHOOL

Classrooms that amplify and affirm diverse identities, histories, cultural knowledge and practices root ALL students in critical thinking and empathy for the world around them.

We can observe this through increased student engagement and increased unity and positive peer-to-peer interactions. Students are deeply invested in learning about each other and the world around them. Ethnic studies deepen and satisfy their curiosity about the world and investment in learning.

Our Catholic faith is rooted in the idea that we are many parts and all one body under God. Ethnic studies is the seed that helps our students grow their understanding of this interconnectedness.



# REFERENCES

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