



KINGSWOOD OXFORD

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Curriculum Initiatives

History Department

- Expanding the scope of geographies and cultures studied in the new Global Cities Curriculum in Form 3.
- The Form 5 US History course now includes units and projects that seek to expand student understanding of the experiences of marginalized citizens and the barriers to equal opportunity. These include:
 - A unit on “The Struggle for Equality: Oppression and Resistance” in US History.
 - The [Witness Stones project](#). In this collaborative, real-world project students partner with local historians to research and unearth the untold stories of enslaved peoples in the greater Hartford area. Students have shared work publicly, as with the [West Hartford placard dedication in 2019](#) and a [student letter](#) to the editor in 2021 that made a request to the West Hartford town council to rename a street in Blue Back Square after a former slave.
 - A unit on the history of discrimination in housing through a study of redlining policies and practices in the United States and in Hartford.
- Four new webinars and discussions were developed in early 2021 for all US and MS advisories that introduced students to the African American experience in CT. The lessons were designed by US and MS History teachers in collaboration with Allie Kyff '14, a local historic researcher, and included “Triumph Stories not Known,” “Barriers to Thriving,” “Seachange through Activism,” and “Feel Good Narratives that are Complicated.” Through this webinar series, US and MS students watched a [performance \(virtually\) of the story of Sarah Margru](#), a child on *The Amistad ship*, and learned about this young black woman’s experience and the importance of telling untold stories.
- [Two new electives](#) have been added to the US curriculum that will offer students an opportunity to learn more deeply in the history of the African American experience in CT (*Hidden Histories: Black History of CT*) and the science behind implicit bias and tribalism (*Tribalism: Us vs. Them*).
- The MS and US History departments worked together to create a series of activities that celebrated Black History Month. The Middle School students who are part of the Civil

Discourse group have worked with the faculty to create their own questions to support these activities in advisee groups throughout the year.

English Department

- The US English Department has committed to adding a broader representation of authors at each grade level.
- [A Form IV Refugee Asylum project](#) explored the question of immigration and asylum through reading the novel *Exit West* in collaboration with UConn Law School. [Sophomore project](#) on *There, There* including research on indigenous social/historical issues and also connected to Yale student media program, “Indigenizing the News.”
- The Baird English Symposium series is committed to including a broad representation of authors, including women and BIPOC authors:
2019-2020: Colson Whitehead, author of *The Underground Railroad*
2020-2021: Min Jin Lee, author of *Pachinko*
2021-2022: Tracy K. Smith, former Poet Laureate of the United States
- The MS English Department has committed to including works by marginalized authors in each grade level. The Form 2 English curriculum added *The Hate You Give* by Angie Thomas this year.

Arts Department

The Arts Department has widened the lens of its curriculum and incorporated more artists with culturally diverse backgrounds. By educating our students about various artistic practices, KO celebrates various cultural heritages so that students can deepen their appreciation of our differences and commonalities and expand their cultural competency. Some examples this year include:

- Visual Arts: BIPOC artists have been included in Photo 1 and 2, Digital Filmmaking, and Portfolio Prep.
- Choir: Music this year features a variety of composer and styles (African American spirituals, Southeast Asian maritime song, and Canadian folk song among others.)
- Orchestra: Music of Soon Hee Newbold this year (Asian American) was highlighted.
- Dance: Choreographer’s Showcase - all choreographers this year are people of color.