



SOCIAL JUSTICE HOMEROOM

Monthly Newsletter

A NOTE TO PARENTS

Please use this newsletter as a way to bridge the gap between school and home and have conversations that are an extension of the work they are doing in homeroom.

This month, students in the Black Student Union, KBK, and IgKnight teamed together to develop three mini-lessons to share with their peers over the month of February. The goal for Black History month lessons were not to focus on historically traumatizing events/themes, but to uplift the intersecting identities of Black people, the stories they share, sometimes uncomfortable truths, and the beauty found within Black/African American heritage. Each week students learned about a different topic:

Week 1 Topic Equity and Social Justice in Charlotte: Students learned of the federal government's New Deal programs that gave impetus and financial resources to support racial discrimination of Charlotte-Mecklenburg's AA community.

Week 2 Topic Black Nationalism in the U.S.: Students learned of the historical roots of black nationalist groups and people, such the Nation of Islam and the Black Power movement of the 1960s. Proponents of black nationalism advocated economic self-sufficiency, race pride for African Americans, and black separatism.

Week 3 Topic Prominent Black Charlotteans: Students learned about prominent figures of historically marginalized populations in Charlotte. They discussed the significance of recognizing and learning about the contributions of African-American leaders in Charlotte.

Week 4: Superintendent Ernest Winston was our Keynote Speaker for our virtual BHM Program.

EXTEND THE CONVERSATION

All items are hyperlinked

- Explore Black history with primary sources from the [National Archives](#).
- [Recreate a Black family's journey using the Green Book](#) from History.com
- [Virtually visit](#) the illustrious Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, New York.
- [Visit](#) the incredible Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture.
- Browse these [eight online exhibits](#) on Black history, racism, and protest.

February 2020

TERMS

Students have discussed common definitions for these terms:

Redlining

Urban Renewal

Gentrification

Black Nationalism

REFLECT

Local News

Witness the realities of slavery and reconciliation first hand at the nation's first slavery museum, [the Whitney Plantation](#).

Then discuss the Lata Plantation, not far from Charlotte, which conducts tours while struggling to address slavery and their own history with it after a controversy several years back.

- Should plantations like Lata continue to operate?
- What can they do to address slavery in their tours instead of ignoring the history?

EXPERIENCES

Support minority-owned businesses in your community and online.

As a consumer, you have the power to affect social justice change with every dollar you spend. In light of the recent Black Lives Matter protests, many businesses have vowed to give more visibility to Black-owned companies nationwide.⁸ Support local businesses that advocate for change and pay close attention to smaller, minority-owned companies.

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If they don't give you a seat at the table bring a folding chair.

- Shirley Chisholm



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