



Ethnic Studies In Santa Rosa City Schools

June 10, 2020

What would you say to a district that does not have an Ethnic Studies program?

“If you want students to love themselves and their community, you need to show them that their community and their values are important. Because a lot of education is ignoring their values. And when you incorporate something that is about them, you show them that their voice matters in society.”

~ Desert Mirage Student



What is Ethnic Studies?



Ethnic Studies is an interdisciplinary field of study that focuses on theoretical and political questions regarding the social construction of categories of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, and nation.

Ethnic studies pedagogy humanizes all people by honoring the cultural wealth of historically underserved groups, by critically analyzing systems of oppression, and by promoting action in solidarity with others to transform students' lives and communities.

Why Ethnic Studies in SRCS?



Graduation rates show disparities in achievement:

Student Demographic	Latinx	White	All
Graduation Rates (2017-2018)	76.4%	85.7	81.1

Why Ethnic Studies in SRCS?

UC/CSU eligibility rates 2017

	Latinx	White	All Students
SRCS	117 / 740 15.8%	265 / 654 40.5%	492 / 1,658 29.7%
County	478 / 1,840 26.0%	960 / 2,218 43.3%	1,661 / 4,589 36.2%
State	86,368 / 219,112 39.4%	58,491 / 112,171 52.1%	200,911 / 429,560 46.8%

Because...



- Too often, when students of color see their stories in our standard curriculum, they only see stories of oppression.
- Ethnic Studies empowers students by expanding the curriculum to include stories of joy and cultural wealth so that all students come to understand the full histories and contributions of all people.
- Considerable research shows “that well-designed and well-taught ethnic studies curricula have positive academic and social outcomes for students.” ~Dr. Christine Sleeter

Draft Mission Statement



The mission for Ethnic Studies in Santa Rosa City Schools is to provide a transformative education that empowers students to critically examine the contributions and experiences of colonially and institutionally underserved communities. Students will consciously and intentionally develop their understanding of community assets and cultural wealth to become agents of positive change who promote equity, empathy, and social justice in society.

2019-20 Ethnic Studies Committee Action Highlights



- 90 SRCS staff members attended the CRSH Professional Development (Culturally Responsive Sustaining and Humanizing)
- Created a secondary Ethnic Studies/Social Justice Collaborative Curriculum Design (CCD) team to develop social justice units
- Monthly Ethnic Studies Committee meetings grew to include greater higher ed and community participation
 - Drafted an SRCS Ethnic Studies mission statement
 - Reviewed approved a-g Ethnic Studies courses
 - Determined a vision for Ethnic Studies in SRCS
- Visited El Rancho and Coachella Valley's Ethnic Studies programs

2019-20 Committee Action Highlights, continued



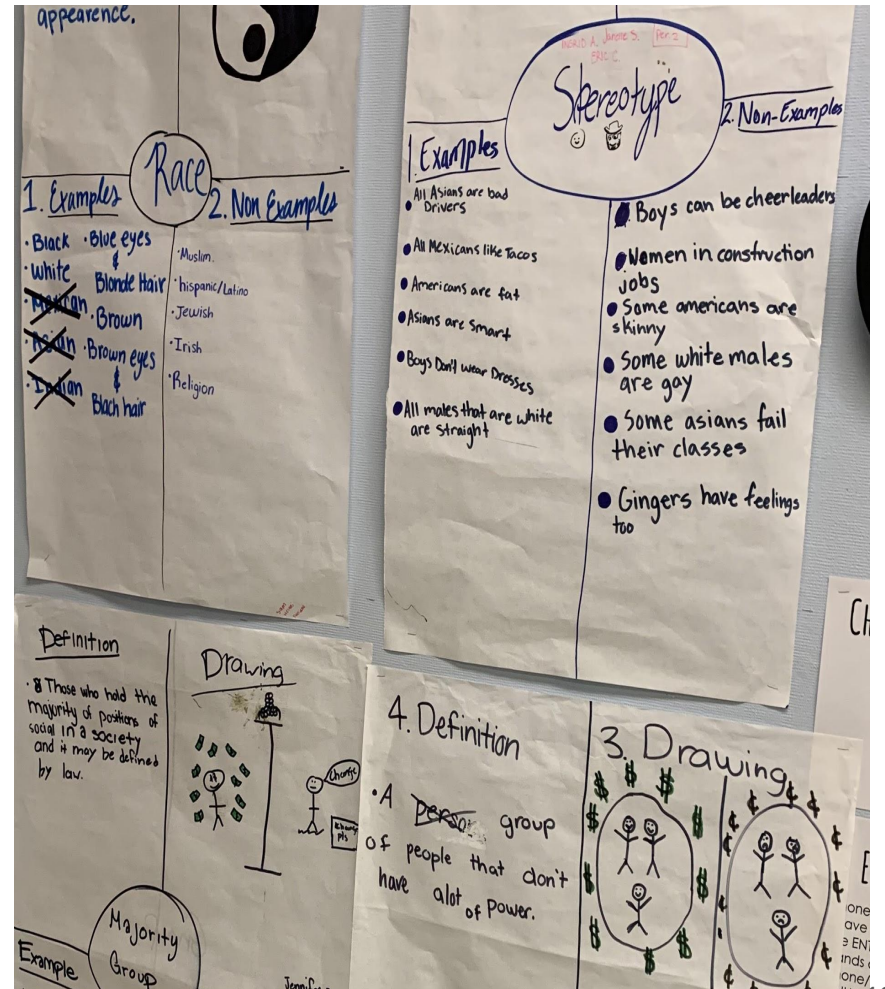
- Worked with President Lyon to draft a mission statement for an SRTA caucus to support Ethnic Studies:

The SRTA Ethnic Studies Caucus will advocate for a robust, quality education that exposes students to the cultures and contributions of all people of our nation. The SRTA Ethnic Studies Caucus will work in partnership with SRTA Members and SRCS Leaders to develop and support a 1-year, 5-year, and 10-year plan to create rich ethnic studies programs and instruction for students across Santa Rosa City Schools.

- Participated in statewide Ethnic Studies advocacy meetings and represented SRCS at a focus group in Sacramento for the CDE Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Committee
- The Model Curriculum for Ethnic Studies is currently under final review by the Instructional Quality Commission at the California Department of Education.

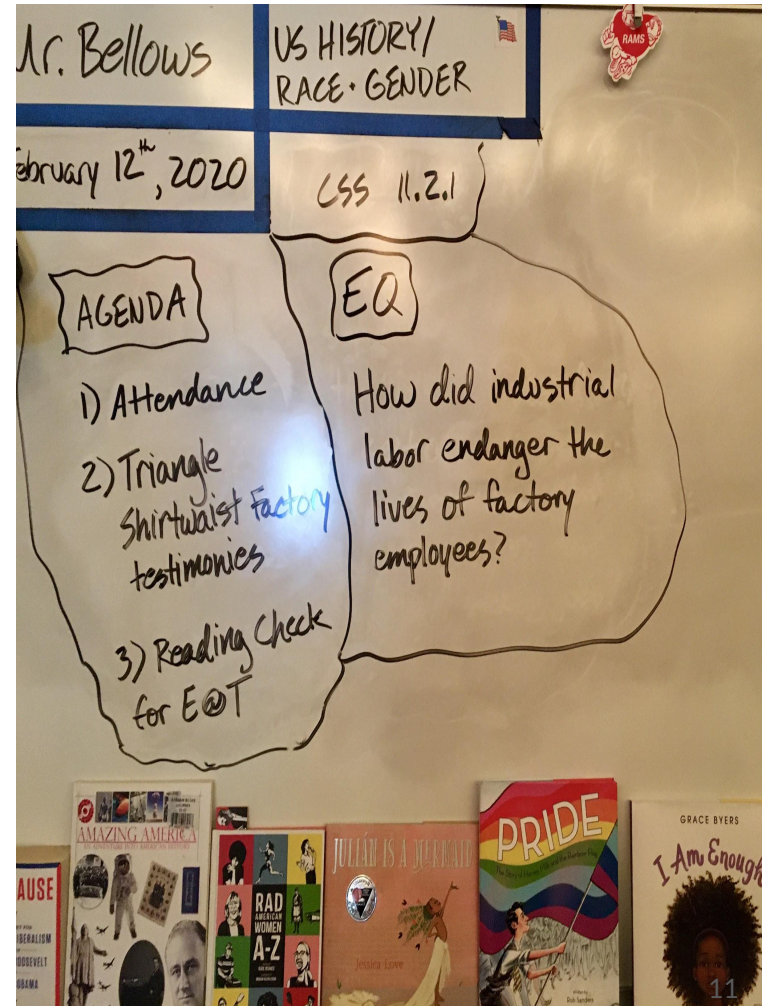
“We want to make sure that we’re producing students who go to college and who enter fields that Latino students typically don’t go into.”

Jose Lara, Vice President,
El Rancho Board of Education



Two Year Plan

- SRCS Board adopts the mission statement crafted by the Ethnic Studies Committee, June 2020
- Begin writing Ethnic Studies course proposals
- Pilot Statistics for Social Justice for math credit at EAHS, fall 2020
- Submit course proposals for Multicultural Literature for high school and Ethnic Studies Elective middle and high school for the 20-21 school year, fall 2020
- Form Ethnic Studies Curriculum Review subcommittee specifically for course review, fall 2020
- Survey teacher interest for future Ethnic Studies courses
- Write additional Ethnic Studies course offerings, spring 2020
- Implement Ethnic Studies into CCD units to create K-12 systematic approach
- Begin Ethnic Studies as an elective at all five middle and high schools; offer Multicultural Literature for English credit at 11th and 12th grade at all five high schools, fall 2021



Five Year Plan



2020-2021: Begin implementation of Ethnic Studies Courses; continue CRSH/Ethnic Studies trainings K-12; continue student interest surveys regarding Ethnic Studies courses.

2021-2022: Expand secondary offerings based on teacher Professional Development, interest and capacity; develop K-6 Ethnic Studies curriculum.

2022-2023: Continue Professional Development for K-12 Ethnic Studies curriculum and pedagogy; broaden course offerings to include, AP and IB courses, the Visual and Performing Arts and Career Technical Education.

2023-2024: Develop a Student Advisory Board to make recommendations to the Superintendent for curricular offerings; provide Ethnic Studies courses in all subject areas.

2024-2025: Create a co-teaching model between students and teachers for shared teaching experiences and increased collaboration.

How will we measure the effectiveness of Ethnic Studies?



Increased Literacy, Engagement, Sense of Agency and Attitudes Towards Learning can be measured through completion of:

- Forms of writing: essays, narratives, responses, poetry, lyrics
- Survey monitoring: qualitative self-reporting survey, self-evaluations, Youth Truth Survey
- Ethnographies and interviews: *Listening For a Change* project, familial histories, community interviews, ethnographic studies

Attendance and Graduation Rates will be measured through district data collection. An increase of access and completion of our student's readiness for college and career will be monitored and reported.

Essential structures for Ethnic Studies



- Ethnic studies programs should target low-performing students, but not be remedial. Effective programs focus on the causes, consequences, and potential solutions to inequality.
- Ethnic studies classes should count for core credit and must be oriented to the cultural contexts of our students and taught by well-trained teachers.
- Ethnic studies classes should be offered as two-semester sequences, as longer immersion in the study provides greater understanding.
- Ethnic Studies classes should be offered as early as possible in a student's education.

Thank you to the Ethnic Studies Committee members:



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In Lak' Ech



Tú eres mi otro yo.

Si te hago daño a ti,

Me hago daño a mi mismo.

Si te amo y respeto,

Me amo y respeto yo.

You are my other me.

If I do harm to you,

I do harm to myself.

If I love and respect you,

I love and respect myself.

Luis Valdez

**ALL WE
WANT
is our
STORIES
to be
TAUGHT**

