



Curriculum Focus Issues

1. Mind, Body & Spirit

Key Objectives

1. • Development of enhanced critical thinking and problem solving skills
2. • Introduction to various contemplative practices: Stretching, meditation, journaling, etc.
3. • Establishment of a practice of reflection through creative expression and reflective writing
4. • Exploration of African Diasporic and Indigenous American ideals of self, gender, beauty
5. • Knowledge of how the human body functions, including key changes during adolescence
6. • Knowledge of nutrition and the effects of healthy and harmful foods
7. • Greater familiarity and comfort with one's own body through participating in physical activities
8. • Knowledge of spiritual practices from around the world
9. • Identification of, and greater confidence in, one's inner strengths and personal beliefs
10. • Appreciation of the power of personal stories and of one's own "story"
11. • Establishment of a healthy and balanced lifestyle
12. • Development of group connections to support bonding and community building

2. Leadership Development

Key Objectives

1. • Collective creation of guiding definitions (*e.g., Man/Woman, Sister/Brother, Leader, Environmentalist, Organizer*)
2. • Collective creation of a *Mission Statement*
3. • Development of a sense of responsibility one's personal actions
4. • Development of a sense of responsibility for one's larger community
5. • Knowledge of Black and Latinx leaders who have sought positive change
6. • Knowledge about the legacy of the silencing of various leaders of importance and why
7. • Understanding of the term "hypocrisy" – its meaning and significance
8. • Development of a personal moral and ethical code to be responsible for one's actions
9. • Opportunity to practice leadership skills in real-life settings and situations (*e.g., workshop facilitation, public speaking, group activities*)
10. • Knowledge of the various forms of power (economic, political, organizing, etc.) and how they are exercised
11. • Knowledge of how women, people of color, LGBTQ and other marginalized communities have been traditionally excluded from positions of power.

3. Pan African & Latinx History

Key Objectives

1. • Knowledge of the history of continental Africa (civilizations, cultures, knowledge, and leaders)
2. • Knowledge of the history of Indigenous America (civilizations, cultures, knowledge, and leaders)
3. • Knowledge of the arrival of Europeans in Africa and the Americas, and the effects on Indigenous peoples (colonization, imperialism, etc.)
4. • Understanding of the slave trade: its origins, ideology, finances, effects, and laws; descriptions of the Middle Passage and the death and destruction it created
5. • Knowledge of the history of racism and white supremacy, and the effects on society (education, employment, media, self-esteem, colorism, anti-blackness amongst latinx's, etc.)
6. • Knowledge of movements for liberation and emancipation including Civil Rights, Women's Rights, Black Power, Puerto Rican independence, Chicano, American Indian, LGBTQ Rights and Decolonization of Africa & Latin America
7. • Familiarity with emerging international, cultural, and political movements
8. • Familiarity with modern global politics in relation to People of Color
9. • Understanding of the status of women of color in the world today
10. • Familiarity with important writings of Blacks and Latinx people and other historic works
11. • Knowledge of the history and contributions of Black and Latinx Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual, Transgender and Queer people
12. • Overall awareness of famous and unsung Black and Latinx figures of historical importance.

4. Dismantling Sexism & Misogyny

Key Objectives

1. • Understanding historical and present ways sexism and misogyny operate in our country and globally
2. • Develop a critical analysis to identify examples of sexism and misogyny
3. • Understand feminism, womanism including their distinctions, meaning and critiques
4. • Exploring personal biases and how sexism and misogyny operate in members' personal lives and communities
5. • Introduce a range texts written to explore sexism, misogyny and patriarchy and the possibilities of feminism (texts including books, articles, films, theater, etc.)
6. • Explore key moments, members and leaders of the Women's Rights Movement in the US as well as critiques of the movement, members and leaders
7. • Learn about national and international collective women leadership organizing to elevate women and girls
8. • Identify and explore policies that keep sexism and misogyny in place, and policies that address dismantling sexism and misogyny

5. Sexual Education & Responsibility

Key Objectives

Key Objectives

1. • Awareness of various STIs & STDs: how they are contracted, prevented, and treated, and their long-term effects
2. • Familiarity with HIV/AIDS and analysis of its origins and dispelling of various myths
3. • Knowledge of the rates of STI/STD/HIV infection in various communities in the US and internationally
4. • Knowledge of various forms of contraception and STI/STD prevention, including abstinence, and commitment to protecting oneself and one's partner

5. * Knowledge of the various laws affecting reproductive rights and how they affect young people's choices
6. • Deferring pregnancy/parenthood until independent adulthood and responsible family planning.
7. • Awareness of the psychological and physical effects of abortion and pregnancy
8. • Familiarity with statistics regarding single parenting in Black and Latinx communities, and the effects on health, education and economics
9. • Understanding of what constitutes wise family planning, prenatal care and the parenting
10. • Understanding of the importance of developing healthy sexual relationships based on mutual respect
11. • Knowledge of the human reproductive system
12. • Understanding of what constitutes consent, and the personal and legal ramifications.
13. • Understanding of the positive aspects of consensual healthy sexual activity inclusive of diverse sexual orientations

6. Drugs & Substance Abuse

Key Objectives

1. • Familiarity with various types of drugs, their substances, and their effect on the mind and body
2. • Awareness of the various causes of drug and substance abuse (e.g. curiosity, peer pressure, pain, depression, stress)
3. • Knowledge about legal drug substances (e.g. tobacco, alcohol, caffeine, pharmaceuticals) and their effects
4. • Knowledge about the increased risk of sexual assault, violence and accidental death caused by exposure to drugs and alcohol, and their broader implications.
5. • Critical analysis of various forms of media used to glamorize drug and alcohol use and promote sales
6. • Familiarity with statistics regarding incarceration rates due to drug use and sale.
7. • Knowledge of the historic legacy of drugs and the “drug war” on Communities of Color
8. • Knowledge of the history and changing laws around drugs (e.g., sentencing laws for crack versus powder cocaine; legalization of marijuana; etc.)
9. • Knowledge of traditional indigenous plant based medicinal and ceremonial plants.
10. • Understanding of “Use” vs. “Abuse” in terms of drugs and alcohol.

7. Conflict Resolution & Violence Prevention

Key Objectives

1. • Familiarity with the rates of violence and incarceration within the Black and Latinx community
2. • Understanding of the “cycle of violence” and domestic violence in communities of color
3. • Understanding of “Anger Management” techniques
4. • Examination of personal and societal experiences of bias and bullying
5. • Awareness of the ramifications of bullying (e.g., low self-esteem, isolation, violence, suicide)
6. • Acquisition of conflict resolution, de-escalation and effective avoidance techniques
7. • Identification of the different forms of oppression and examples of how they are enacted
8. • Understanding of intersectionality and the connections between various forms of oppression
9. • Understanding of the difference between interpersonal, institutional and systemic oppression
10. • Commitment to the promotion of tolerance for others
11. • Knowledge of restorative justice and mediation as community development models, and understanding of techniques.
12. • Knowledge of how violent tactics have been used to oppress, and liberate peoples throughout the world.

8. Political Education

Key Objectives

1. • Understanding of the three branches of government: Judicial, Executive, and Legislative
2. • Knowledge of how laws are passed
3. • Understanding of the struggles to pass historic social justice laws, and their enduring impact
4. • Knowledge of the Declaration of Independence and the rights it demands and excludes
5. • Knowledge of the original U.S. Constitution and the rights it provided and denied
6. • Knowledge of the historical struggles for equal rights by marginalized peoples
7. • Familiarity with various forms of political systems (Democracy, monarchy, dictatorship, oligarchy, etc.)
8. • Understanding and analysis of various parties (Democratic, Republican, Green, etc.), including their history and present-day agendas
9. • Knowledge of the effect of under-representation in the U.S. Census
10. • Familiarity with U.S. interests, foreign policy and the history of US intervention in Africa and Latin America
11. • Knowledge of the various strategies utilized in the struggle for social justice (community organizing; lobbying; boycotts; direct action, etc.)
12. • Knowledge of the “electoral college” and the way it undermines the system of democracy
13. • Awareness of current NYC, NYS and Federal policies that negatively impact people of color
14. • Knowledge of how to register to vote
15. • Knowledge of Felony disenfranchisement laws

9. Educational Achievement

Key Objectives

1. • Understanding of the importance of education for all peoples
2. • Knowledge of accomplished Black and Latinx people who used education to make social change
3. • Knowledge of the history and experience of Black people in public education in the U.S., including prohibitive laws and the system of segregation
4. • Knowledge of educational requirements for various careers
5. • Opportunities to learn from, and network with, diverse professionals with various backgrounds and journeys to success.
6. • Opportunities to participate in college tours
7. • Access to ongoing tutoring, academic support and advocacy
8. • Access to an educationally supportive environment that celebrates academic success and offers college preparation information and activities
9. • Access to computers and library as a resource for research and supplementary reading
10. • Ongoing reflective writing related to workshops and educational activities
11. • Awareness of the “school to prison pipeline”.
12. • Individualized support in selecting, applying and matriculating into college
13. • Development of a “love of learning”
14. • Knowledge of multiple intelligences and various learning styles
15. • Understanding the difference between “liberatory” and “banking” forms of education

10. Economic Systems & Financial Literacy

Key Objectives

1. • Understanding of basic personal budgeting for individuals and families (income/expenses/savings).
2. • Understanding of the “time value of money”, including concepts of an Hourly/Annual wage, savings & interest, investments and dividends, leveraging loans, pyramid schemes, etc.
3. • Understanding of how banks work. The difference between savings and checking accounts. How to write a check. Fees and services. Predatory lending; banks vs. credit unions.
4. • Knowledge of the Federal Reserve, its history and impact on society, and it’s current membership and powers.
5. • Understanding the world of credit and loans -- how credit cards work, what are the benefits, how to minimize credit and college debt and how credit scores are determined; the historic effects of “redlining” on communities of color.
6. • Awareness of the average income associated with various education levels, and the comparative salaries of various kinds of employment.
7. • Awareness of the historic struggles for workers rights (progress made and contemporary problems), and the power of workers organizing and unionization.
8. • Awareness of the various forms of economics that predate modern capitalism (bartering, sharing, cooperative economics).
9. • Understanding of the basic structures of capitalism and how capitalism affects our society.
10. • Awareness of the differences between capitalism and socialism, and exploration of economic systems in socialist countries.
11. • Awareness of comparative economic systems in western governments (France, England, Germany, etc.) and the economic services these governments provide (health care, education, labor protections, etc.).
12. Understanding retirement planning: 501k, social security, pensions, etc.
13. Understanding issues of “Exploitation”, “consumerism” and “materialism” and their effects on our communities and the environment

11. LGBTQ+ Justice

Key Objectives

1. • Awareness of the basic definitions and language associated with gender identity and sexual orientation.
2. • Understanding of the process of gender socialization, and its biased impact on folks who identify as LGBTQ+
3. • Understanding of the various forms of oppression affecting the LGBTQ+ community, (i.e. homophobia, transphobia, sexism, machismo, misogyny, patriarchy, toxic masculinity) and heterosexual/cis-gender privilege.
4. • Knowledge of the history of the Gay/LGBTQ Rights Movement, it’s victories, ongoing struggles and leaders.
5. • Knowledge of the laws that have denied, and continue to deny equal rights to the LGBTQ community
6. • Knowledge of the various leaders of social justice movements throughout history (Civil rights, Women’s Movement, Black Power, etc.) who were/are Gay, Bi-sexual, Lesbian, Trans or Queer.
7. • Understanding of intersectionality and the challenges facing Black and Latinx members of the LGBTQ community
8. • Understanding of what it means to be an “ally”. Positive and negative ways. Recognizing gender pronouns and their importance.
9. • Understanding of the role of religion in promoting homo- and transphobia.
10. • Understanding of LGBTQ+ internalized oppression, and historic conflicts between Gay and Trans communities

12. Environmental Justice

Key Objectives

1. • Understanding of the basic principles of Environmental Justice: the preservation of mother earth and all living organisms.
2. • Understanding of indigenous cultures and their relationships to nature and their environment.
3. • Understanding of basic botany, the life of plants and how to grow foods
4. • Understanding of ecosystems and the interdependence of living organisms
5. • Basic knowledge of healthy and unhealthy foods, the food plate, and the effects of various ingredients (vitamins, minerals, etc.) on our bodies. Pharmaceuticals vs. natural remedies
6. • Basic understanding food chains and the environmental problems within our food systems: pesticides; toxins; mono-culture; treatment of animals; food transportation; food deserts, etc.
7. • Understanding the major environmental issues affecting our world such as global warming, air and water pollution, fracking, use of fossil fuels, and leaders historical/current leaders in the struggle
8. • Understanding of alternative, renewable energy sources: wind, solar, water, etc.
9. • Understanding of the basic environmental concepts of reduce, reuse and recycle and how to incorporate them into our lives.
10. • Understanding of environmental racism and the historic and contemporary effects on communities of color.
11. • Understanding of the connection between capitalism, environmental destruction, and the devastating effects on the earth, animals, and human life.
12. Understanding of the importance of planning now for future generations. Understanding the “7 generations” indigenous philosophy.