Happy snow day everyone,

As mentioned in last week’s Friday bulletin, tomorrow (Wednesday, 2/17) and Friday (2/19), we will be running an adjusted bell schedule (see attached) to allot some intentional time to recognize Black History Month on the front end of our 3rd period classes.

For that 22 minute allotted block of time, please follow this agenda:

1) Hilliard City Anti-discrimination bill introduction: (please read) The power of student voice is remarkable and transformational! Last September, Jahari, a Hilliard high school student, contacted Hilliard City Council as to ways in which he could make our community more inclusive and accepting of all people. Two City Council members asked Jahari to leverage the power of student voice to help them expand existing anti-discrimination laws so that our city can protect people who are from communities related to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, marital status and pregnancy because our current law in Hilliard does not include community members related to those classes. Jahari and other students in the Reaching Out to Cat Kids group got to work!

Now, we need YOU. We need YOU to share with our elected officials in the form of a hard-copy letter why expanding the anti-discrimination legislation is necessary. If you have experienced discrimination because of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, marital status and pregnancy, please share your experiences as well so we can help the people who serve us understand us and understand why we need legislation that protects all people. There is a box where you can turn in your letter in the main office.

We are proud of Jahari, Thomas and the other members of the Reaching Out to Cat Kids group for their inclusive, transformative efforts. Students, now it is your turn to help us bring about a better tomorrow.

2) Once finished reading, please show the following YouTube video, created by some of our very own HCS students:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-0NedWd-XE&feature=youtu.be

3) Once video is finished playing, please let students know that if they are interested in writing a letter to City Council supporting this bill, that they can do so and drop them off in the Main Office either in the designated box or to Mrs. Smith no later than next Wednesday, 2/24 as we will be in remote learning that Thursday and Friday.

4) Black History Month discussion (see attached). In looking at data and feedback from our Panorama surveys, from conversations with many of students, and from the @DearHCSD Instagram page, it is evident that our students want to be having conversations revolving around topics and issues revolving around such issues as diversity, social justice and recognizing the importance of Black History in our country. The questions in this document will help students engage in and think critically about the history of African-Americans in the United States, including any personal experiences they may have if they choose to share. During the time set aside in our schedule for this today, start with one or two of these questions to help guide your discussion. Some of these questions may lend themselves to organic conversation that doesn’t require you to use more than a few. Ideally, this will be more student-led than teacher-led, but we have built in plenty of questions just in case.
Finally, I have reattached the Black History Month resources, if you wish to incorporate any of this content into your lessons for the remainder of February. They are organized by content area and are relatively easy to peruse.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns related to this. Hopefully, you’re enjoying your day! See everyone tomorrow!

Thank you,

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