

Milton Public Schools

Behaving Equitably

March 25th, 2021

Passover

Saturday March 27th – Sunday April 4th 2021

Slavery has been used since the dawn of time to elevate the existence of one group over the freedom, inhuman, abusive, and oppression of another. Egypt and many of its great creations during the [Ancient Egypt Era was built on the back of Israelites](#). In 2021 from March 27th thru April 4th, many Jewish families will observe the Passover. The Passover is the celebration of freedom. “The holiday is often celebrated for eight days ([seven in Israel](#)), and incorporates themes of springtime, a Jewish homeland, family, remembrance of Jewish history, social justice and freedom — including recognizing those who are still being oppressed today ([History.com](#)).” This celebration commemorates the Israelites’ journey from slavery to freedom from Egypt. One of the main rituals in a “Seder” which means “order” is to read from the [Haggadah](#). The Haggadah is a book that tells the story of the Passover. “Many Jews have cherished memories of past family times spent at a Seder. It is believed that the obligation to [tell the story of the Exodus](#) was observed by Jews ever since the [actual Exodus](#) itself ([myjewishlearning.com](#)).” There are three main fundamentals of the observing of a Seder: the family, the individual, and the nation. This is a time where all generations come together to symbolically experience the Exodus from Egypt.



On a Seder plate, the menu may differ depending on the family’s traditions. The items on the plate symbolizes events that represents the experiences during the Exodus. I learned while conducting my own research on the significance of the Passover that “The Seder service has a clear order, with each of 14 steps representing a different phase of the Seder. Together, they serve to teach the lesson of the Exodus, God’s saving the Jewish people from slavery. Much of the Seder discussion focuses on God’s might and the Divine role in redemption ([www.myjewishlearning.com](#)).”

There is so much richness to this celebration of freedom to cover in one newsletter. I highly suggest more investigation be conducted to better understand these rituals and traditions. If you are lucky, you may even be invited to observe this beloved celebration.

Here are some resources to start with:

- [An Article in Time Magazine](#)
- [Ancient Egypt Era and the Israelites](#)
- [My Jewish Learning Website](#)

Quality Review

The Quality Review from and Equity Lens is a comprehensive look into the district work around ensuring ALL learners have and can access to high quality education. There are many aspects to this research and deep dive into the district's ability to ensure ALL of our learners are given what they need to succeed.

Calling ALL!

Surveys:

We have invited all families, staff, and students at the middle and high school levels to participate in a survey. Please look out for an email from contact@cedu.io with your survey link. If you are a parent or staff member who did not receive an invitation to the survey, please use these links to access:



Parents:

<http://milton-parents-signup.cedu.io/>

https://app.cedu.io/survey_sign_up/MPS01/1384

If you have any questions/concerns please reach out to Somaly Prak-Martins @sprak-martins@miltonps.org

Focus Groups: (If you want an opportunity to provide more depth about your experience in Milton Public Schools. Please volunteer to be part of the focus group interviews)

We will be conducting focus groups of staff, parents, and community groups. If you would like to be part of a focus group, please email renee.chandonnet@mottmac.com.

Student Surveys are also underway. The surveys have been distributed to the middle and high school level students. All surveys and survey questions are **optional**. When your child logs in this is the message he/she/they will see prior to taking the survey. If you are concern with your child's ability to understand this message please explain his/her/their rights to them prior to taking the survey.

NOTICE: Questions including items about racial identity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and religion are included in the surveys. You do not have to answer these questions, and if you do your response is completely confidential. No responses for any individual students will be shared with anyone at school or anywhere else.

Although these questions are personal, we ask because we want to know if school experience is different for students who identify in different ways.

ANY question, as well as participating in this survey, is OPTIONAL. You have the RIGHT to skip any and all questions.

The Milton Public School District wants to hear and learn from ALL students and families. The equity here is providing ALL students and families a choice to share their experiences and stories. If you chose not be share your story, that decision will be respected. However, if you chose to share your story, we appreciate the trust and time that you have invested in our journey to making Milton Public Schools equitable for ALL.

If you have any questions and/or concerns about this, please reach out to Somaly Prak-Martins the Director of Education Equity at sprak-martins@miltonps.org.

Steering Committee:



The implementation for the Quality Review from an Equity Lens has been underway. The number of interests from the community is promising. However, due to the recent announcement made by the Massachusetts Commissioner of Education, the focus of the entire school district has shifted to ensure a safe and equitable return to school for ALL (students and staff). There are a lot of logistics, planning and negotiating taking place in order to abide by the CDC guidelines as well as meeting learning targets.

The Quality Review through an equity lens will continue as planned but we are extending our recruitment timeframe for both the Selection Task Force as well as the Steering Committee. [Click here](#) to apply and/or learn more about the Selection Task Force and Steering Committee.

The new deadline are as follows:

ALL CALL	Selection Task force 2/8/21 - 4/16/21 Steering Committee 2/8/21 - 5/7/21
Application review	5/10/21 - 5/14/21
Interviews	5/17/21 - 5/21/21
Call Backs	5/24/21 - 5/28/21
Orientation	TBD
Work begins	6/7/21