

Milton Public Schools

June 10th, 2021

Behaving Equitably

Juneteenth



Did you know that even though the [Emancipation Proclamation](#) was passed on “Freedom’s Eve”, January 1, 1863, some enslaved people that lived in Confederate controlled states were not set free? The government was not able to enforce the Proclamation without the help of the [13th Amendment](#) that was passed (two years later) on January 31, 1865 (later ratified on December 6, 1865).

The Emancipation Proclamation that was issued by Abraham Lincoln declared, “that all persons held as slaves...are, and henceforward shall be free.” However, this Proclamation only applied to, “states that had seceded from the United States, leaving slavery untouched in the loyal Border States. It also expressly exempted parts of the Confederacy (the Southern secessionist states) that had already come under Northern control. Most important, the freedom it promised depended upon Union (United States) military victory ([National Archives](#)). Through the 13th Amendment, 2,000 Union troops marched into Galveston Bay, Texas on June 19, 1865 and announced, “that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state, were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "Juneteenth," by the newly freed people in Texas ([National Archives](#)).

Only 4 states in America recognize this day as a holiday and Massachusetts is one of them. Charlie Baker, the Massachusetts Governor made Juneteenth an official state holiday on July 2020 ([OfficeHolidays.com](#)). He wanted to elevate the continued need towards racial freedom and equality. In 2022, Washington State will join and make it a state-paid holiday.

Here are some resources available:

- [Children’s book list](#)
- [10 books to Celebrate Juneteenth](#)

- [Juneteenth Museum of Fine Arts, Boston \(June 19 from 10:00 am – 10:00 pm\)](#)
- [Juneteenth Online Celebration with Bishop Harris](#)
- [Top 6 ways to celebrate Juneteenth with kids](#)

Here are some resources that will be used in the Middle and High School:

- [Smithsonian - Historical Legacy of Juneteenth](#)
- [National Juneteenth Observance Foundation](#)
- [Article about the Juneteenth Flag from CNN](#)
- [What is Juneteenth - article from CNN](#)
- [National Archives - Black Soldiers in the Civil War](#)

Glover celebrating Juneteenth in style:

Kickoff: Education about Juneteenth and introduction of our theme "A Year of Firsts"

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QNuvtXmN5s2qLaDY6WZBsHUoLwyxwo1y/view>

Other planned announcements/activities:

- Superintendent Jette addresses Glover students
- Virtual visit from Mayor Kim Janey
- Additional read-aloud on Morning Announcements (read aloud by fifth grade student leaders)
 - "All Different Now" by Angela Johnson - The story of the day a young girl and her family found out they were free, told through the eyes of the young girl.
 - "Juneteenth Jamboree" by Carole Boston Weatherford -The story of Cassandra and her family who have moved to her parents' hometown in Texas, but it doesn't feel like home to Cassandra until she experiences Juneteenth, a Texas tradition celebrating the end of slavery.

Equity



What is Equity and why is Milton Public Schools investing in this concept? The district believes ALL learners should be provided and can access a high quality education. However, we know that there are certain existing structures and barriers that stop us from reaching this goal. Here are two videos that may help you better understand the concept of Equity and why it is critical to ensuring ALL learners have access and opportunity for success.

- [How Equity impacts Academic Achievement](#)
- [Equity versus Equality](#)

Quality Review

The process of the review has finally come to a close. We are meeting with Cambridge to finalize the last part of the process. Please look out for more information regarding when the report will be presented to the School Committee.

Please help me welcome and congratulate the first five members of the Steering Committee.

1. Giselle Dimanche: 8th grade student from Pierce, MYAC member and MSAPC member
2. Shelley Sturdivant: Community member and parent of 8th grade twins and a member of Pierce DEI committee
3. Mac D'Alessandro: Milton resident and Parent of 2 Milton High School students
4. Meg Matthews: Parent of 2 Tucker students, former Tucker site council, Tucker Board member and MARC member
5. Monique DeBarros: Milton resident and parent