

**January 7, 2025**

Dear 6th Grade Parents,

Every year, the sixth grade engages in an interdisciplinary unit on identity. Beginning today, on January 7th, we launch a look at identity through food. Each “MESH” subject that we teach -- math, English, science, and history -- will contribute time and develop skills around exploring several questions about how part of our students’ identities is linked to the foods that they eat. Throughout this unit, the students will develop an answer to our guiding question, **“How are we what we eat?”**

The identity unit is an exciting experience in many ways. Interdisciplinary work helps students to see the connections between their subjects and enhances their study. The identity unit’s guiding question connects to the 6th-grade overarching theme of “What makes us who we are?” and this unit strongly connects to our service-learning work throughout the year.

To help answer our guiding question, students will create individual pages in a sixth-grade food Google Site, which will be available to you online at the end of the unit. Each of our classes will help the students think about food and how they relate to it in many ways:

- In English, the students will reflect on a meal or recipe that has had an impact on them as a person and on their family.
- In history class, students will research the origins and cultural importance of traditional foods and create a presentation on a specific, culturally important food.
- In science class, students will learn the origins of ingredients in their recipe from English class. Students will create an infographic representing a visualization of their data and findings.
- In math class, students will be collecting data about food and doing a data visualization exercise which integrates math and art.

At the end of the unit, we will hold a celebration and cultural food festival, which will take place **on January 28th from 9:15 - 11:00am**. The first hour will be student presentations in Hajjar Auditorium, and the second hour is the Food and Identity Unit Tasting Celebration in the cafeteria. You are invited to attend, but we also hope you can help us celebrate by bringing in a taste of food that represents your family culture (family history, ethnicity, special family celebrations, etc.) in some way. Your Parent Association Representatives will be coordinating this part of the celebration, so please look out for an email from them soon. We look forward to seeing you there!

Best,

The Sixth Grade Team