

Dear School Family,

This term, your children will be learning about the history of enslaved Africans in Florida and the lasting legacy of slavery in America in our integrated literacy and history class entitled the 1619 Project. Discomfort in exploring this difficult history is understandable but it is important that, as educators, we remain willing to sharing and teaching the diverse history of our country.

We will be using the [Teaching Tolerance “Teaching Hard History”](#) and [1619 Project](#) frameworks for this unit. We will also be using the Teaching Tolerance framework when we explore the Indigenous people of Florida next term.

These resources will be made available to you so that you are better able to engage in conversations with your children if they have questions about what they are learning. You may also be interested in following the [Slavery in America Podcast](#). I will be sending you links to books which are tied to the topics we are covering in case you want to read these books with your children at home.

Below are the Essential Knowledge concepts that we will be covering in this unit. (Click on the Essential Knowledge topics to learn more about them.):

### **Essential Knowledge 1**

Students should be encouraged to think and talk about the meaning of freedom.

### **Essential Knowledge 2**

Students should know that slavery is when a person owns another person as property.

### **Essential Knowledge 3**

Students should know that enslaved Indigenous people and Africans came from nations with diverse cultures and traditions and that they continued many of these traditions while enslaved.

### **Essential Knowledge 4**

Students should know that enslaved people had families that could be split up at any time.

### **Essential Knowledge 5**

Students should know that enslaved people hated being enslaved, and resisted bondage in many ways.

## **Essential Knowledge 6**

Students should know that enslaved people tried to maintain their cultures while building new traditions that continue to be important.

“The study of the past is important for understanding what happened in the past, but it’s equally important for understanding what is happening in the present.”

Hasan Kwame Jeffries, History professor at Ohio State University, Teaching Hard History  
Advisory Board Chair

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have about this course.

Sincerely,

Ms. Angela